

Sir Richard Perrott, 2nd Baronet 1716-1796
A Pretended Baronet

Having looked into the origins and commentary made on the Owen Griffiths manuscript which claimed to be an authentic account of the Genealogy Perrotts in Pembrokeshire, I decided to follow up my research by looking into the history of its contributor to the *Baronetage of England*, Sir Richard Perrott. The intention was to find out firstly, if there was any information concerning Sir Richard, other than that provided by Burke's Peerage, and secondly, to find anything that might reveal the nature and character of Sir Richard at all. Initial searching on the internet was fruitless until I found an account of Sir Richard provided by the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*¹ which provides the biographies of about 55,000 people who have been significant in British history. An abridged version of the biography of Sir Richard provides the following information.

"Reliable information on Richard Perrott is sparse: the few sources provide the following account: He succeeded his uncle, Sir Robert Perrott, first baronet (created 1 July 1716), diplomatist, in 1759. He was present at the battle of Culloden 16 April 1746) in personal attendance on the Duke of Cumberland. Later, he entered the service of Frederick II of Prussia, serves in the seven year's war (1756-63) and was awarded the Red Eagle. In October 1758 Frederick appointed Perrott Lord High Admiral with authority to establish a fleet, but the British government vetoed the appointment. Frederick used him in secret negotiations and awarded him the Order of the Black Eagle, and Louis XIV created him a Baron. During the Wilkite disturbances, Perrott brought up the loyal Flint Address and was thanked by the king. This led to a mob demolishing his house at Gloucester View, Park Lane, London, and burning its costly contents in front of it. He was awarded a medal, a grant of the manor of Cheslemore, and other marks of royal approbation. On 3 March 1782 he married Margaret Jemima, the daughter of Captain William Fordyce, gentleman of the bedchamber to George III.

In 1770 the scandalous and polemical *The Life, Adventures and Amours of Sir R—P—* was published anonymously in London. It criticized the duke of Grafton (Augustus Henry FitzRoy, 3rd Duke of Grafton, Prime Minister 1768 to 1770) for making 'such a wretch' as Perrott his 'newly created favourite' and alleged Richard Perrott was an adventurer of obscure origin, a thief, confidence trickster, and heartless reprobate who was briefly in the slave trade along with other crimes

In addition to the ODNB biography, *The Baronetage of England Vol 3* contains the following account of Sir Richard Perrott dated London July 18th 1770;

“ On examination of these volumes I (T. Lowndes, Bookseller) perceive that the family of Perrott is omitted; but wishing to do strict justice to all mankind ,I now insert a short account of Sir Richard and his family from a curious pedigree left to him in the hands of the late Mr Kimber...”, “and a proof that Sir Richard Perrott is a baronet, I here insert the Fiat of his Majesty, as it now stands properly authenticated in the Heralds office”. A full copy of the Fiat is produced, commencing `George the Third, by the grace of god.....Whereas to avoid all doubts and dispute about the rank and precedence of our truly and well-beloved subject Sir Richard Perrott, baronet..... shall have and enjoy in all places, assemblies and meetings, the place rank , preheminance, precedence, privileges and immunities of , or belonging to , the degree of a baronet of this our realm.. as from the first day of July, one thousand seven hundred and sixteen..... Given at the court at St James`s, the third day of January, 17767, in the seventh year of our reign”.

By his Majesty`s command
H S Conway

This is followed by the discredited account of the Perrott lineage by Owen Griffiths and concludes;

“Thus have I given a fair extract of that curious pedigree which Sir Richard very obligingly lent Mr Kimber. There remains nothing at present, but to give the substance of a paper which Mr Kimber received at the same time.

The present baronet is of a military genius and was in service in East India before he was fourteen years old, since which he has visited most of the habitable globe. His present majesty of Prussia found him so active a disposition, that he confided solely to him care of his intended marine: the following was a commission he was honoured with for that purpose.”

A copy of the commission is then provided and concludes with the date 24th October 1758 signed Frederic.

The account concludes with “ A lord high admiral of Great Britain could not have been vested with more extensive powers. When Sir Richard was told, it would have been given in charge to all ships , Whitehall to search the Prussian ships of war for British sailors, he replied `they might, if they carried more metal than he did`; but the wise and prudent arrangements of the ever glorious Pitt, Prevented this young Hydra (under the command of a Briton) rising to a formidable maritime force, or we might , in time have had another power to have disputed with us the sovereignty of our native element”².

From the two above biographies, Sir Richard Perrott had a significant and memorable career with connection with some of the leading figures and events of the day and at times moved within the highest sections of society. However, upon further investigation, very few of these claims can be substantiated.

Beginning with Sir Richard's title as a second Baronet, this is a hereditary title which has produced more commentary than any other aspect of his life; the existence of the title was fully confirmed on the 26th December 1766, where the Attorney General wrote in the Law Officers Entry Book,

"Encloses a paper received from a gentleman who styles himself Sir Richard Perrott, setting forth his claim to the dignity of a Baronet, although his ancestors for the reasons therein contained did not take out the patent under the Great Seal, or even obtain the Sign Manual from the King. At the same time, in two votes (enclosed) of the House of Commons, when the gentleman was in Parliament, he has the title of Sir Richard Perrott. He now asks His Majesty to grant him a warrant of rank and precedence as a Baronet from 1st July 1716, when the dignity was first intended to be granted to his uncle James Perrott. Desires the Attorney General to state his opinion and, in case he shall see no reasons against complying with the request, to prepare a warrant for this purpose³".

From this, in 1767 an entry was made in the Warrant Book, rol.31, 1765-69
`To whom directed; The Deputy Earl Marshall of England (Scarborough)
For whom and what purpose; Perrott, Sir Richard, Bart. To take rank and precedence as from 1 July 1715. Dated 3 Jan 1767³.`

With this warrant, Sir Richard became a second Baronet after his uncle and was entitled to all the privilege's accordingly and this was subsequently noted with an entry into Burke's Peerage in 1826 with substantial footnotes which subsequently decreased in size through the later editions up to 1924 until there was no entry for Perrott in the 1949 edition of *Burkes Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage Baronetage and Knightage*. Although the warrant had been issued in 1767, both the evidence to substantiate the claim to the title and the personal character of Richard were questioned in later years, particularly in the *complete Baronetage 1707-1800* by G E Cokayne⁴.

The enclosed paper which was offered by Sir Richard, provided evidence of the legitimacy of his claim was also entered into the Entry Book, which reads as follows:-

“Admiral Cornwall, when he sailed to the Mediterranean, had it given him in charge, in conjunction with James Perrot Esq., by George the First, to redeem all British subjects who should be found in slavery in the Barbary States. They expended on that expedition a much larger sum than ever they received, and often solicited the balance in the King`s lifetime; and afterwards the late King, who, while at Hanover, to make them some return for their services and losses, created them Baronets with precedency from the 1st July 1716; but, though promised the patent at the expense of the Crown, found on their application here for their warrants, before they could obtain them as stipulated (viz., that of the Admiral. In default of heirs male, to his relation Sir Robert de Cornwall, late member of Leominster, and his heirs male, and that of James Perrot, in default, to his nephew Richard Perrott, son of his brother Richard Perrott, and his heirs male.) it would cost them a considerable sum, and, unwilling to expend a further sum, they would never took out the warrant; yet the Admiral and James Perrot bore the title to their deaths; and the Admiral`s successor, Sir Robt. De Cornwall, was elected member for Leominster under that title, but on a rumour that it would be deemed a false return, no living person being found of that name and distinction, he applied to the late Duke of Grafton, his friend, who undertook to obtain a Signed Manual from the late King before the sitting of the House, a copy of which you have here subjoyn`d, which the Duke carried to the King, who signed it. The validity of the election, when that was known, was never disputed. After the death of sir Jas. Perrott, his nephew Richard, according to the intention of the limitation, was reputed the Baronet and bore the title ever since; and in the dispute in the House of Commons, which commenced on the 4th day of March with Charles Fitzroy Sendmore Esq, was therein treated, stiled, and reputed Sir Richard Perrott”.

Although the letter successfully substantiated the claim in its reading when in the House of Commons, much of its content was false, some of which would have been seen to be so at the time if it had subject to any scrutiny. Beginning with the reference to Admiral Charles Cornwall (1669-1718), who had a varied but ultimately distinguished career in the Royal Navy and was also at times a member of Parliament for Weobley, Herefordshire⁵. The letter is correct where it is stated that he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean in 1716, along with instructions to put down the Barbary Corsairs and also to negotiate a treaty with the Emperor of Morocco. The letter starts to vary from

the truth where it is implied that there were issues with an heir to Admiral Cornwall which is incorrect as he was a father to 8 sons and seven daughters, a few of which survived to maturity. One of them being the eldest surviving son, Sir Robert de Cornwall (1700-1756) MP for Leominster in 1747⁵ (about 7 miles from Weobley). The biography in HOP states "Cornwall entered the army but appears not to have risen above the rank of lieutenant, probably resigning when he succeeded to the family estates in 1718 (upon the death of his father). Soon afterwards, on the strength of an alleged promise made by George I (d. 1727) to make his father a baronet (which never happened as Charles Cornwall died at Lisbon on 7 October 1718, following the battle of Cape Passaro), he assumed the style of 'Sir Robert de Cornwall, Baronet'⁵. In the letter, Sir James Perrot is identified as an uncle to Sir Richard but G E Cokayne⁴ states; "No locality to this James, neither can the date of his death or any particular be ascertained about him It is probable that he is meant for the same person as Robert Perrott mentioned next below". A Robert Perrott is mentioned because of the similarity in the date of the creation as a Baronet in 1716 or 1717 for the fictional Sir James, to which Cokayne states "No such Robert Perrott, however is mentioned in Sir Richards pedigree and no patent, sign manual, docquet nor any other document exists to indicate that any person named James or Robert Perrott, was created, or was intended to be created, a Baronet" it is also noted that James and Robert Perrott are mentioned in Kimbers *Baronetage*² dated 1771, but not in the 1741 edition. Despite the incorrect information in the letter, its authenticity was accepted by the House of Commons and Sir Richard became a Baronet and subsequently used the attendant rights and privileges to his personal gain and favour wherever possible.

The Early years

By obtaining the warrant on falsified information and also having been responsible for the inclusion of the mostly fictitious account of Perrot history contained in the Owen Griffiths manuscript into Kimber & Johnson's *Baronetage* 1771, the authenticity of the accepted account of Sir Richard Perrot Bart became questionable. What subsequently emerged was a completely different life story from what had been printed in Burkes Peerage and ODNB.

In the *Baronetage*, the account on Sir Richard Perrot provides a written lineage claiming descent from Sir James, the illegitimate son of Sir John Perrot, and

Dorothy Perrot, daughter of Sir Thomas Perrot, a marriage which is completely false as there never was a Dorothy Perrot. The lineage becomes more credible when one of their stated sons, Francis Perrot of Upper Bignall married widow Stonier of Lower Bignall Hill (not confirmed but possible) from which there were several children as confirmed by their baptisms in the Parish Registers St James Church, Audley Staffordshire ; Delicia 21st June 1684, Stonier, 15th October 1686, Francis, 30th December 1688, James, 28th August 1695, Naomi, 16th April 1693, Anne, 17th August 1700, and Richard, 19th September 1704. On each baptism the fathers name was confirmed as Richard Parratt. The written lineage continues with;

`Richard Perrot, who married Rebecca, daughter of Isaac Wyke, of Wacton-court, in Herefordshire... they had issue, Sir Richard Perrot, the present baronet, James M.D. and Eleazer` without identifying his fathers place of birth. Other accounts state that Sir Richard was born at Broseley, Shropshire, but there is no mention of Perrot by any spelling in the first half of the 18th in the Parish Registers⁶ so the place of baptism for Sir Richard and his brothers James and Eleazer remains unknown.

Details of the family of Richard and Rebecca Parrott`s are few but what can be confirmed is ;

`Rebecca Wyke, Baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1701, Wacton, Hereford parents Isacci and Rebecca Wyke<sup>7</sup>`.`

`Theodosia Parrott, daughter of Richard, born August 18<sup>th</sup> 1738, Baptised September 3<sup>rd</sup> St Chad`s, Shrewsbury⁸`.`

`Francis Perrot, Son of Richd. and Mrs Rebec, Born same day, Baptised August 24<sup>th</sup> 1740<sup>8</sup>`.`

`..... Parrott, Baptised 18th January 1742, St Chad, Shrewsbury⁷.

Theodosia Parrott, Buried September 2nd 1772⁸`.`

`Mr Richard Parrott, Buried July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1773<sup>8</sup>`.`

Richard Parrott`s year of birth is always given as 1716, but this date is now questionable as his father and mother were baptised in 1704 and 1701 respectively, in addition, in an article in TSANHS⁹ the names of boys admitted to Shrewsbury School are listed and it shows that Richard Parrot joined the school between the dates of 16th November 1738 and 15th November 1739. From these facts the given date of birth could be in error by 2 years or up to 9 years as Richard Parrot then went on to study in Cambridge as is shown by the entry in `Alumni Cantabrigiensis`;

"Parrott, Richard. Admitted sizar at Clare, Feb. 25, 1739-40, Born at Coventry. Matriculated 1740. Migrated to Queen`s, Oct. 15, 1743 B.A. 1743-4" Where he

remained as a fellow as noted by Queen's college; "Richard Parrott B.A. 1745-1749 (N.B. not as a fellow in J.Venn's, but in elections book etc.)"^{10,11}

Note- A sizar is a student originally financing his studies by undertaking more or less menial tasks within his college and, as time went on, increasingly to receive small grants from the college without being 'on the foundation'

Any other details of his family are scarce, but fortunately, in an anonymous letter to the London Evening Post, dated 25th January 1770, the further information is given;

"Sir Richard was the eldest son of low, but honest industrious parents at Shrewsbury, and that his father is now living, and keeps what we call a gin shop near the bridge in that town; and that his mother was an Anabaptist, and died in October 1766... He hath a brother named James at Tewkesbury, who lives in good reputation and man-midwife, He had another brother named Eleazer, who served his apprenticeship to the said James, and who afterwards came to London and lived in Great Ormond-street, and practised surgery and pharmacy there; and was married to Miss Gibson of Chelsea, but in a few months left London and settled at Chipfield in Kent, and is now gone as a surgeon to Bengal;... Sir Richard has also three sisters; one of whom lived with him in some years ago in Somerset House, and was afterwards married to --- Wilson Esq. of Margaret street, Cavendish Square. Another of his sisters married on Martin, a Rider, and brother to Mr Martin, Linen Draper in Smithfield, she soon became a widow, and now lives in Great reputation in Leicester Fields. And the other sister now lives with her father at Shrewsbury. Sir Richard was very young when he went out into the world, and soon married, he hath one son who is heir to his estate and title; his name is James: a young fellow about nineteen, and who is now going out into the India service himself; but where he hath lived all his life is not so well known.... "

From the letter, additional information was found which included; Richard Parrot married Lucy Apperley on the 21st February 1747 at Leominster, Hereford, England⁷ (interestingly, in the same year that Sir Robert de Cornwall became an MP for Leominster).

James Apperley Wyke Perrot, Baptised 13th August 1750, Leominster, Hereford, England. Father Richard Perrot, Mother, Lucy⁷.

Lucy Parrott, Buried 31st January 1765, Compton-Chamberlain, Wiltshire⁷.

The letter contains the only mention of his first son and consequently of his first wife, there is no mention of either of them in any edition of Burke's Peerage or any other publication that lists the Baronetcy of England. Another

feature of his life that was never mentioned in any published article was the Parrot family connection with the coal mining industry.

Upper and Lower Bignall Hill combined to make the village of Bignall End within the Parish of Audley and is situated in the North Staffordshire coalfield. Coal mining as a significant industry began in the 17th Century because of the easy access to the coal seams on the surface. The first coal mines were simple family run businesses and were either drift mines (also known as adits) which followed the slope of the seam from the surface or were simple bell mines. The demand for coal increased in the 18th century and there were many small mines that were run by Coalmasters that were gradually replaced by deep mines in the 19th century. Records of the early coal mines are scarce and only the 19th century details indicate the size of the industry, as is found in The Northern Mine Research Society¹² which shows that within a one mile radius of Bignall End there were 7 collieries. The Parrott family were established within the coal mining industry as is shown by the various locations of who they married such as Sir Richards Grandparents, Richard Perrot and Anne Smith who married at Dilhorne, Staffordshire, site of Dilhorne Colliery. Where Anne was the daughter of Gabriel Smith of The Brookhouse near Rainow in Cheshire which was very close to two coal mines¹². Of their children, Anne Perrot married firstly John Oadhams who was buried in 1726 at Wolston within a mile of what became Binley colliery near Coventry¹², while Stonier Parrott went on to establish other coal mines suggesting that the Parrot family were more likely to have been coalmasters than coal miners. Richard Parrott, Sir Richards father was the exception to the family trade and set up a Gin House in Mardol Street, Shrewsbury.

It was Stonier Parrott, Sir Richard's uncle, who would ultimately have the most significant influence on Richard Parrot by his sponsorship and generosity which would lead Richard onto a very different path. There is no further mention of Stonier until 1715, when, in the earliest assessment of the Coal works at Broseley in Shropshire it is noted; "and two pits of Mr Stonyeard Parrot in Lacon's land, value £14¹³". This being at a time where Broseley in Shropshire had become a significant industrial town in the early 18th century because of its proximity to the industrial revolution around Telford, Broseley was noted for its number of coal mines (10 collieries within a radius of one mile¹²) furnaces and clay mines. In another survey, again, in May 1715;

"No. P3 (possibly the 7th Newcomen engine built) at Burwasley, also Broseley Salop; built by Stonier Parrott; Proposal by Stonier Parrott to pump 47 yards. £20 per year rent. No reference to building found. Stonier Parrott and George

Bursley worked pit. *The Steam Engine of Thomas Newcomen by LTC Rolt*, from Randall we may read Bursley as Buckley¹².

By 1719 Stonier had married Ann Place and their son, Place Parrott, was baptised on the 3rd March St. Dunstan in the West in London⁷. In another assessment in 1721;

“Mr Parrot had two pits at Calcutts (in Broseley) value £20¹²”.

By 1723 the Parrot's had moved to Coventry where Anne was baptised at St. Michael's on the 24th March to be followed by Francis, who was baptised on the 11th October 1724 at St. Michael's in Coventry. The Parrott family were known to be working coal mines in the Coventry area as early as 1721 and continued to prosper until January 1733 when `Stonier Parrot of Coventry, Coal Merchant` is declared bankrupt¹⁴. However, this was a situation that did not remain for long as the coal mining business prospered again and continued to the point where in 1774 to 1795, `Messrs, Parrott, Fernyhough and Wheldon were described as of the Hawkesbury Colliery, Bedworth, had eight pits, and two others were being sunk<sup>15</sup>` . From the wealth generated by the coal mining industry, in the mid-18th century, Hawkesbury Hall at Parrotts Grove, was built and it became the official Parrot family residence on the outskirts of Coventry until the early 19th century.

To the House of Commons

On the 17th January 1755, in the House of Commons, Sir Charles Mordaunt reported from a committee that had assessed a petition from the mayor of Coventry, its Corporation and principle inhabitants and of the principle inhabitants of Banbury for an improvement to be made upon the road between Coventry and Banbury. Sir Charles stated that the committee had examined the matters of the said petition and had directed him to read the report to the House.

“To prove the allegations of the said Petitioners, Mr Christopher Wright and Mr Richard Parrot said, That the roads described in the first-mentioned Petition are, from the Badness of the soil, become so ruinous, that it is dangerous, in many Places, for Carriages or Passenger to pass, except in very dry Seasons, and in many Places so narrow, that Two carriages cannot pass each other; and that the same cannot be effectually repaired and widened by the laws in being.

And Mr. Richard Parrot further said, That by reason of the ruinous Condition of the said Roads, constant Recourse cannot be had to and from the Coal pits near Coventry, which greatly increases the Price of Coals about Southam, and in that part of the Country.”

to improve the road between Coventry and Banbury¹⁶.

On the 27th February 1756, the findings of the committee were read to the house of Commons where it was stated that the Price of Coals in Coventry had risen in Coventry of late years: That those from Bedworth Pits used to be sold, at an Average from 4½ d. to 5½ d. the cwt in the Winter season and sometimes 6d. in frosty weather; That they are now sold for 6d. and have been at 8d. this winter; That the colliers said they raised them on account of the toll (that was instituted to pay for the road improvements). Following further evidence supplied to the House, it was added that "Mr Perrott, who is the Proprietor of the Coal Works at Bedworth, offered to take the Tolls collected at the Gate, for which he would oblige himself to repair this Part of the Road, and pay £100 a Year towards the Repair of the other Part for Ten Years: That the Statute-work would support the Road in every Parish, except Exhall, if it was repaired; That a toll would increase the Price of Coal. And the People of Coventry are against it; but that a toll on waggons would not hurt the Poor, because the poor Manufacturers in general buy their Coals off Horses: but the Rich supply themselves in Summer by Waggons¹⁶".

Because of this bill, Richard Perrot became familiar with the House of Commons and its members and found the environment of political debate and intrigue to his liking and continued to maintain his connections by retaining a residence in London as is shown by the reading made in the afternoon of 5th March 1761.

"Complaint being made to the House, That, in Breach of the Privilege of this House, Sir *Richard Perrot* hath entered into Possession of a Cellar in the Occupation of a Tenant of *Charles Fitzroy Scudamore* Esquire, a Member of this House.

Ordered, That it be referred to the committee of Privileges and Elections, to examine the Matter of the said Complaint; and to report the same, with their Opinion thereupon, to the House¹⁷"

On the morning of 16th March, 1761, Mr Bacon reported from the Committee on their findings of the complaint "... Sir Thomas Robinson, took a house in Scotland Yard of Mr Fitzroy Scudamore and was in possession of a key to the cellar..... Mr Thomas Robinson was Master of the Great Wardrobe.... the lock was taken off the Cellar Door at the end of January .. in order to have it cleaned... Sir Richard Perrot in the mean time took possession of the cellar, which is under part of the house inhabited by him: put another lock on, and told the witness that he had taken possession and would keep it: for he had bought the lease of some ground in which the cellar was included.. Thomas Gilbert, deputy to Lord Gower (the recently appointed Master of the Great

Wardrobe.. that on upon applying to Sir Richard Perrot, on his having taken possession of the cellar, Sir Richard told him, he had a Grant of it from the crown, which he would abide by, and keep possession: and upon being again applied to about a fortnight after, and being repeatedly asked to give up , possession, or try his Title at Law, he refused: and has kept possession ever since... it was enquired, and only Colonel Fitzroy Scudamore has the only right to the house and the cellar, and the only opening from the cellar was into the Yard.... Sir Richard Perrot ... and not appearing , nor anyone on his behalf at the requested attendance at Scotland Yard on Friday last.. the messenger did not see him; but a woman, who has the care of the house, undertook to deliver the Copy of the Order.”

“*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this committee, That Sir Richard Perrot, having entered into possession of a cellar, in the occupation of a tenant of Charles Fitzroy Scudamore Esquire , a Member of this House, is thereby guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of this House.

Ordered, That the said Sir Richard Perrot be for his said Breach of Privilege taken into the Custody of the Serjeant of Arms attending this House^{17.18}”

It is not clear as to whether Sir Richard was imprisoned for Breach of Privilege, or for being in debt, or both, but was charged and sent to The King`s Bench prison in St. George`s Fields, Southwark. He was released from prison by an act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors as noted in The London Gazette, dated Tuesday 8th September to Saturday 12th September 1761¹⁹. Stated as being late of St Mary le Strand and Late of St martin`s in the Fields , Sir Richard to be delivered to court 20 days after the 12th of September to subscribe all his estate and effects to the creditors.

There would have been serious social consequences to any further connections to members of the House of Commons for awhile. But, by December 1766, Sir Richard was once again at the House of Commons to attend the reading of his claim to a Baronetcy on which the warrant was issued on the 3rd January 1767. The re-establishment of connection with particular Members of Parliament and their quality commenced as is shown by an article in The Derby Mercury, 25th March 1768, which reported on a Hustings held at Covent Garden, where two Candidates for Member of Parliament of the City and Liberty of Westminster, Lord Hugh Percy and the Hon. Edwin Sandys, had their nominations supported by Sir Richard Perrot Bart, Sir Edward Blackett, Bart. and Sir Henry Cheers. With no other contenders appearing at the Hustings, the two candidates were duly elected.

The amount of involvement by Sir Richard in the political scene of the day is uncertain as his name does not appear in any publication that gives him any kind of merit. So it is unusual that an advertisement for a new book was placed in the `Public Advertiser` on the 27th June 1768;

“This day is published, price 1s. 6d.

The Liberty of the subject, and Dignity of the Crown, maintained and secured without the Application of a Military unconstitutional force....., Inscribed to Sir Richard Perrot Bart.”

As a consequence of the Age of Enlightenment, 18th century London was notable for its number and range of Debating Societies that covered all topical, political and social issues along with those devoted to the arts and sciences. Sir Richard was a member of a new political Debating Society that copied the issues and procedures of the House of Commons, and in an article in the February edition of the The Gentleman`s Magazine dated the 10th January 1770²⁰ Sir Richard was reported as seconding a motion supporting the constitution and monarchy of England and his speech was recorded.

On the 30th December 1769, The London Evening post reported on a letter dated from the County of Flint, dated 24th December where a petition had been made to the Prince of Wales with another petition to the King, both of them expressing their loyalty to the crown and their continued honour to the King and country. The petitions were then left at the Ship and White Lion Inns where they were to be signed by the majority of those eligible who approved the petition. The petitions were then taken the next day to London by Sir Richard Perrot and company. The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser reported on the 15th January 1770 “On Monday last (8th January). At noon, the Hon. Sir Richard Perrot, Bart, arrived from Wales at the Queens palace, with the Petition from Flint, and had the honour to be introduced to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to whom he presented the following petition”

“After his Royal Highness had read it, Sir Richard, on his knee, presented that for the King, which the Prince, with great affability, promised to deliver...”

“On Tuesday at noon Sir Richard Perrot, Bart., was again introduced to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, when his Highness with great goodness and sentiment, expressed his affection for his loyal and brave Britons, and commended Sir Richard to communicate to them what his Highness then delivered to him, in his own hand-writing, as an answer to the Flint Petition”

(COPY)

“Sir Richard Perrot may assure the Barony of Flint, that I have delivered the Petition to the King and am pleased with the loyalty and affection to the King, and to myself, expressed by the antient Britons on this occasion.

GEORGE, Prince of Wales.

“At the same time his Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnabrug, did Sir Richard the honour to present him with a gold medal, struck on his Royal Highness`s Election to the Bishopric. Sir Richard Perrot was at the Queens House near an hour each day and had the honour to kiss the Royal hands of the three Princes, and to be introduced to the Princess Royal.”

By presenting the Flint petition, Sir Richard Perrot had achieved a high social status which became widely known because of the article in the London Evening News and proceeded to return to Flint with the letter from the Prince of Wales. However, because of the publicity, there were unforeseen consequences.

A very different Sir Richard Perrot

Beginning with a letter to the London Evening Post on the 16th January 1770, a letter queried the validity of the Baronetcy of Sir Richard as it was missing from the recognised listings and the extravagant nature of the coat of arms, which were described as `pompous`. The letter finishes with” ..but if there is in fact no such Baronet, then the author hopes he is entitled to the thanks of his fair country-women, for guarding them against an infamous fortune-hunter, who may endeavour to deceive them by a borrowed title.”

This was followed with a letter to the London Evening Post printed on the 18th January, `a freeborn petitioner of Westminster` presented his compliments to various Justices of Peace and Prison keepers and requested any information regarding Sir Richard Perrot who was declared to be a grand imposter with the added note that Sir Richard claimed to have been made a Baronet by the King of Prussia.

This was followed by another letter printed in the 23rd January edition which stated that Sir Richard had spent the last 25 years tricking honest tradesman out of their goods, has taken a house in Richmond the year before, stripped it of its Valuables, and was now on the run from bail, signed by `A Keeper of one of the Prisons`.

In the Thursday edition, dated the 25th January, an extract of a letter from Flint was published on page 2, which gave details of the ceremony to receive the Prince of Wales`s letter. The ceremony was conducted on a Sunday, where a procession passed through the town of Flint accompanied by a band in which Sir Richard carried a crimson velvet cushion which held a very rich case in which the Princes letter was contained. Upon reaching the County Hall, the procession went inside and when all of the hall was filled Sir Richard gave an

account of the reception of the petition and then read out the letter from the Prince of Wales, after which it was displayed for everyone to read. Sir Richard was then carried on a chair back to the Ship inn and a sheep was roasted in front of the County Hall and a barrel of ale brought out, the evening then being concluded with a ball. On the Wednesday there was a hunt organised in the mountains and Sir Richard and company left Flint on the Thursday.

Sir Richard Parrot had been the toast of the society of Flint and had been universally welcomed for four days but, in the very next paragraph underneath, a different welcome awaited him upon his return to London. "Whereas Sir Richard Perrot, Bart, has absconded from his bail in a certain action now depending against him in his Majesty's court of Kings-Bench at Westminster, any person or persons procuring the surrender of the said Sir Richard Perrot in discharge of such his bail, shall, upon such surrender, receive TWENTY GUINEAS (equivalent to £2,767.00 in 2017) reward, to be paid by messrs. Gillies and Broome, attornies for the bail, at their chambers in Gray's – Inn, Holbourn."

This was followed on page 4, by a letter which outlined the details of his origins and family and then proceeds to describe how Sir Richard constantly carried upon himself a small case containing the warrant for his Baronetcy.

The letter then goes on to describe notices for his ejection in 1769, for non-payment of rent, a fraudulent attempt to secure other property and a query on how he obtained the authority to present the Flint petition. The letter concludes with the alleged tradesman stating that all of those who were commissioned to repair a house under the direction of Sir Richard were never paid for the work carried out and that he used different aliases at different social clubs and venues.

The Gentleman's Magazine which offered a monthly summary of the key stories taken from the main newspapers with some additional correspondence, on page 42²⁰, noted the events of the 8th January; "Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. arrived from Wales, with a petition from Flint, addressed to his royal highness the prince of Wales expressive of their loyalty, and of their disapprobation of petitions for the dissolution of parliament. The concurring accounts that are published in this papers, of an infamous adventurer under the above name, involve a mystery, how such a man could procure an address and what means he could make use to obtain countenance at court to present it; yet that an address from Flint was presented and that by one who calls himself Sir Richard Perrot, appears from a letter written by the young Prince, with his own hand...."

Another letter expressing the same views but with no date was printed in the Political Review for 1770 with the pseudonym, Detector. The letter begins;

“SIR, the public in general are greatly at a loss to know who the person is who styles himself Sir Richard Perrot, and is said to have presented a petition from the town of Flint, in North Wales, to his Majesty, by the hands of his Royal Highness the prince of Wales. ----The Ancient Britons themselves, and particularly those who are natives of Flintshire, are puzzled to find out who this baronet is, as neither they, nor their forefathers ever heard of any person of that name honoured with that title in that part of the world.....The same person has been in the capacity of a subaltern officer in the Prussian army. There is one Sir Richard Perrot advertised in the London Evening Post of Tuesday the 16th Inst. On account of his having fled from his bail, who lived in Noel-street, and is threatened to have his name published at full length, together with a description of his person, &c.”....²¹

The storyline of Sir Richard proved to be more than just a sensation for the month and continued into February with a letter to the London Evening Post on the 10th with the tale of a Mr Foulston who had been a master lamp-lighter and had intended to attain public office in some way but needing a means of introduction. He was recommended to Sir Richard, who requested £100 for the required expenses and within another month requested yet another £100. The pretence was sustained for 18 months, by which time Mr Foulston was down to the last of his savings and despite many requests to recover his money, he did not receive any money back from Sir Richard at all. On the advice of a Justice of the Peace, the man who arranged the introduction was questioned, found to confirm Mr Foulston's story and a warrant was issued for Sir Richard's arrest. The money was repaid by an unknown generous lady and it was found that another person had also paid £100 to Sir Richard under the same pretences.

The Issue of the London Evening Press published on Thursday 15th February, Contained a letter from Manchester dated 29th January. It described how Sir Richard arrived in town in a superb chariot drawn by two fine chestnut horses, driven by the Baronet but not having a servant. He stayed at an obscure inn staying as one of two different names but at times would officiously show a Baronet's patent. From there, he began to introduce himself to a few gentlemen's families but “by the impudence of his conduct, he gave great disgust, asserting the most improbable falsities, and affectedly despising every thing that was shown to him as curious, pretending to a general and absolute knowledge, and pronouncing most dictatorially upon subjects of which he had the most superficial ideas”. The progress around the gentry of Manchester was interrupted by the arrival of a woman who declared that she had been married to Sir Richard about 20 years before and mistreated and deserted her in the

West Indies. She repeated the story as given by `The keeper of one of the prisons ` which was also verified by his former next door neighbour in Shrewsbury. Sir Richard made no attempt to meet her and left Manchester, leaving his carriage and horses behind.

Despite the various letters in the newspapers which revealed a very negative side to Sir Richard, which in turn made an object of satire, worse was yet to come in the writings of `Junius` the writer of political letters to the Public Advertiser. The letters, sometimes savage, were principally directed at the then Prime Minister, Augustus Fitzroy the 3rd Duke of Grafton, whose term of office was noted for being inept and were significant in contributing to Fitzroy`s resignation in 1770. The unwelcome attention of Junius was reproduced in the February issue of The Gentleman`s Magazine²⁰ and begins with “This pretended baronet is plain Dick Perrot, the second son of one Perrot, a decayed distiller of Mardol in Shrewsbury; his elder brother an apothecary, but now practices as a physician at Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, by virtue of a diploma from Leyden. About nine years ago he was at Worcester and boarded in the college churchyard, and thought to have carried off the daughter of a gentleman of fortune, to have married her”. The article continues with many allegations of relationships with women leaving them all, mad, destitute, dead, or with child while making some references to the claims of having involvement with Prussia in the Seven Years War.

Lloyds Evening Post, on the 26th March, gave details of Sir Richard`s former imprisonment for debt and had been discharged out of prison under the clause of the Insolvent Debtors Act, it also commented that he had since been made a Justice of the Peace and a Baronet.

In prison once again, Sir Richard wrote a letter addressed to the Prince of Wales stating his current circumstances. In an ingratiating tone he complained about the recent revelations in the press and the publishing of the satirical booklet “The Life , Adventures, and Amours of Sir R--- P--- who had so recently the Honour to present the Flint address...” stating that “these were all the effects of envy”. The letter concludes with a plea to be remembered and an assurance of absolute loyalty²². The satirical booklet was advertised for sale at two shillings²³ and was reviewed by the Town and Country Magazine²⁴ which considered the publication as “Though the stile of this supposititious history is rather better than the common run of *Grub-street catch pennies*, it contains few, if any, real memoirs of the doughty knight in question.”

By the end of April, the story of Sir Richard Perrot had run its course and with no further revelations, the press moved onto other features. Unsurprisingly, nothing more was heard of Sir Richard for the next three months and the time in prison was put to good use to try and restore his reputation.

The first attempt was the publication of a 47 page booklet with the title "A letter to the Honourable Sir Richard Perrott, Bart. on the famous Flint petition to his Majesty and his Royal Highness the prince of Wales..... By a Briton". It is written as a letter praising the achievements of Sir Richard and comparing his status to that of Sir John Perrot by a person who is signed as `A Pembrokeshire Welshman`. Briefly mentioning a time spent in the Indies, it then states that Sir Richard was in Germany travelling to Hanover to join the army at the time of the signing of the Convention of the Cloister-Seven, signed by the Duke of Cumberland in September 1757 and seen to have been wounded by a bayonet in the hip and face when they met at Stettin. It then goes on to state that Sir Richard's last commission in the Prussian service was as Commander in Chief of the Prussian navy with the authority to enlarge the navy by buying ships from Britain and prepare it for an invasion of Sweden. The mission to buy ships from British shipyards was cancelled by the intervention of the Prime Minister William Pitt and King George III resulting in the loss of a considerable fortune to be made by the commission upon the sale of the ships by just a few months. Accepting the fate of what had happened, Sir Richard then suggested a plan to raise a regiment of light infantry to be named the Royal Volunteers but the son of a noble Earl took the plan for himself and raised the regiment as his own.

This was followed by taking Prince Edward, Duke of York, around a frigate and instructing him on every part of the warship as the Duke intended to obtain a commission in the Royal Navy. Building upon the success of connections with naval matters, Sir Richard then proposed a plan to the Russians to conquer the Black Sea, Greece and Constantinople, this was despatched immediately to St Petersburg from which he was offered the position of Chief of armament which was declined for unknown reasons. Sir Richard also devised a plan for the capture of Manila, which was subsequently adopted by General Draper.

The booklet ends with copies of the reports of the Flint Address and the petition of the Alderman of London and the King's answer dated 22nd March. The booklet was intended to be seen as a complimentary account of the notable achievements of Sir Richard to date while all the time extolling his virtues as a noble and decent person, but from its content and style of writing, it could only have been written by Sir Richard himself, to counter all that had been written about reported about him.

In another effort to enhance his reputation, Sir Richard created a fictional pedigree which combined the `History of the Kings of England`, written by

Geoffrey of Monmouth in the 12th Century, and `The History of that most eminent statesman Sir Joh Perrot`, believed to have been written by his illegitimate son, Sir James Perrot. To give the account some credibility, an introduction and an end-note written by Thomas Lowndes, noted bookseller and publisher dealing mostly with dramatic works, was included and the article was dated `London, July 18, 1770. The full account appearing in the appendix to the third volume of the Baronetage of England, published in 1771 by E. Kimber and R. Johnson. In the opening paragraph, it states` I now insert a short account of Sir Richard and his family, from a curious pedigree left by him in the hands of the late Mr Kimber` and towards the end of the article, `Thus have I given a fair extract of that curious pedigree which Sir Richard very obligingly lent Mr Kimber`. Conveniently for Sir Richard, Edward Kimber had died in 1796 and so could not provide an authoritative opinion upon the pedigree or confirm that he had ever had the manuscript in his possession at all.

In accordance with his status, Sir Richard commissioned a portrait of himself to made by Valentine Green, a prominent mezzotint engraver and print publisher, who became a director of the Incorporated Society of Artists in 1771 and mezzotint engraver to the king in 1773.

The portrait is seen as bust length with a three-quarter profile to the left, wearing a plain coat with a medal prominently displayed, possibly the medal received from the Bishop of Osnabruck but no other medals or awards are displayed. The inscription underneath reads;

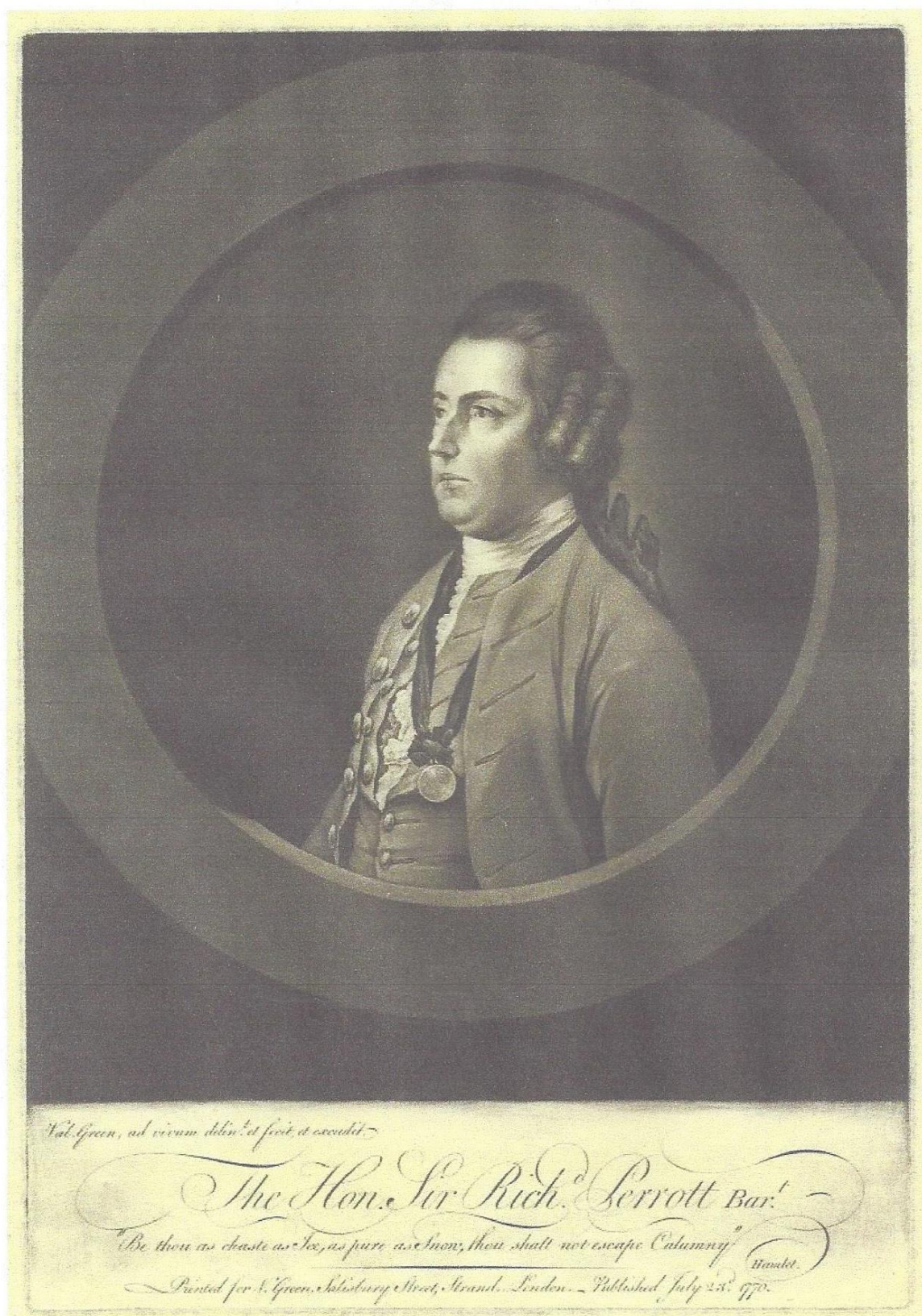
Val Green, ad vivum delint. et facit, et exudit.

The Hon. Sir Richard Perrott Bar.

“Be then as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape Calumny”

Hamlet

Printed for V. Green, Salisbury Street, Strand, London. Published July 23rd 1770²⁵



With no further revelations in the press, Sir Richard no doubt felt that he was no longer newsworthy, but Bingleys Journal, dated 18th August 1770 reported on a “remarkable entertainment” which was given by Sir Richard Perrot in the King’s Bench Prison in honour of the Prince of Wales’s birthday. Guests included the celebrated Mrs Quarrington, the Hon. Captain Rutter and lady, various other people (who later denied having dined there), Captain Hurlham and Lady, the Two Kennedys, with their irons on, and a courtesan from the purliens of Covent Garden was partnered with a colonel. The meal was accompanied by many loyal toasts which were drank in Welch ale. On the 9th October 1770, the Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser featured an advert for items for sale;

To be SOLD by AUCTION
At Mr. FOZARDS, the Horse and Groom livery stables
in Piccadilly, on Thursday next, at twelve o’clock.
Two remarkable fine CHESTNUT GELDINGS
formerly the property of Sir Richard Perrot
both got by young cade, cut of two brood mares belonging
to the Duke of Bolton; they are now six years old, with full
tails and manes, go steady in harness, and march very well,
and supposed to be the best pair of horses in England, and
are hearty, warranted sound: likewise a chariot upon a new-
construction, which cost with harness 140 guineas, it is little
the worse for use: the horses and carriages will be sold in
two separate lots. To be viewed at the time of sale

In 1772, The London Gazette Gave notice of prisoners for debt taking the benefit of the Act for the relief of Insolvent debtors. . The weekly issue for Tuesday 21st April printed first notice for a list of prisoners which included ` Sir Richard Perrot, formerly of Park Street, Late of Gloucester view, both in the Parish of St. George Hanover Square in the County of Middlesex, Baronet. ` The lists for the second and third notices were printed in the subsequent issues on the 28th April and the 5th May 1772.

The last acts

After leaving prison for the second time, and with his personal fortune and social standing greatly reduced, Sir Richard should have quietly gone into obscurity. But his name still had some relevance in various circles as the St

James Chronicle of the 9th February 1773 reported “ It is thought that Mr Sheriff Lewis`s motive for accepting the honour of knighthood was to emulate the ambition, as well as the merit Richard Perrot”. In 1774 Sir Richard was still attempting to have some visibility as the edition for the 6th October of the St James Chronicle noted “On Wednesday last Sir Richard Perrot, Bart., was introduced at the Levee to the king, by Lord Willoughby de Broke, and had the honour to kiss his Majesty`s Hand”.

In Sayer and Bennets Prints Catalogue for 1775²⁶, in the section for:
` Statesmen, eminent Land and Sea Officers, Patriots, Chancellors, Judges etc.
Who have distinguished themselves to the present time.`
Item 65. Sir Richard Parrot.

But still, old habits die hard, and from the Morning Post and Daily Advertiser, dated 6th October 1775;

`We hear that Sir Richard Perrot, finding it no longer possible to deceive the public, has at last declared his *real* title, and that the *same* year, in which he was created *Lord High Admiral of Prussia*, he was dubbed KNIGHT OF THE POLAR STAR! Sir Richard would have declared himself long before this period, but was ashamed to appear without the insignia of order; upon which he was constrained to raise a few pounds towards the expenses of his famous patriotic excursion into Flintshire, a disbursement which still remains unpaid by government.`

The order of the Polar Star, knight, is the 5th and lowest degree. The order was created by King Frederick of Sweden in 1748 and was awarded to Swedish and foreign citizens for civic merit, duty, science and literature.

The General Advertiser of August 15th 1778 was the only newspaper to feature an unusual story of events which happened at the Mecklenberg Coffee House on the previous Wednesday. The story begins with a foreigner who entered the Mecklenberg Coffee House, went upstairs and ordered a meal. While reading a newspaper after the meal the only other occupant of the room threw a stone mug at him and threatened him with a pistol. The foreigner quickly left and went to a nearby house in Jermyn street where Sir Richard was known to dine and was noted for his civility and attention to foreigners. Two constables arrived to arrest the assailant but on seeing that he was armed with two pistols, immediately left the room. Sir Richard then entered the room armed only with a walking cane and disarmed the man, who was later found out to be a Captain of the 74th on half pay. A pistol had been pointed at Sir Richard but

had mis-fired. Of the event, Sir Richard stated that he was the better armed as his cane never mis-fired and the story was not repeated anywhere else.

On the 24th January 1780, The Secretary at War, presented to the House of Commons, pursuant to their address to his Majesty²⁷;

“Copies of all proposals that have been made to General Lord Amherst, from the 26th November 1778 to the 13th December 1789, for the Purpose of raising New Levies for his Majesty`s Service; and Copies of the Answers returned to such Proposals”.

In the accompanying lists of army formation to be raised there are two entries;

No. 229 1st August 1779, *Sir Richard Perrott*- 5 Companies.

No. 275 7th August 1779, *Sir Richard Perrot*- A Battalion.

Nothing more is heard of Sir Richard for two more years until it was reported in the Morning Herald, dated 19th March 1782, that in the previous week, Richard Perrot, Bart. married Margaret Jemima Fordice, eldest daughter of William Fordice, Esq. Groom of his Majesty`s most honourable Privy Chamber.

Margaret Fordice was Baptised on the 9th October 1760 at Saint Anne, Soho, Westminster, London. Parents William and Elisabeth⁷. William Fordice was a groom, in attendance at the royal household, but more correctly he was a groom, employed as a carver (of the royal meat), a position he held from 1778 until the post was abolished 14th November 1785²⁸.

From this marriage there was only one child, Edward Bindloss Perrott who was baptised on 26th July 1787 at Saint Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London, parents named as Richard and Margaret Jemima Perrott⁷. Edward was the sole heir and inherited the title as 3rd Baronet upon Sir Richards death. Some sources^{4,29,30} give Edward`s date of birth as the 1st September 1784 but do not identify where this information comes from.

On the 2nd November 1796, Richard Parrot was buried at Clerkenwell, London⁷, no newspaper or journal gave any notice of his death.

The final mention of Sir Richard in any periodical occurs in Volume 40 of The Gentleman`s Magazine which combines all of the monthly issues for the year 1770. In the Preface describing the content of the February issue, it states; “....., An account of one Perrot, A pretended Baronet, who presented the Flint petition,.....”

What became of Margaret Perrot in the years following Sir Richard`s death is not certain and there are very few mentions of her. G E Cokeyne⁴ writes; “His widow, to whom a pension had been granted in 1789, was living at 25 Warren Street, Fitzroy Square, Marylebone, 7th December 1803”, while The Southern Reporter on the 29th December 1831 printed the Pension List, in which it notes Dame Margaret Jemima Perrott received £48 and 15 shillings. The Morning Post, 2nd June 1832 lists those who had recently died and the obituary enigmatically reads “A few days ago, the Lady Margaret Jemima Perrott, whose strenuous exertions for her young offspring must still be in the recollections of the public. A more exemplary woman never existed. By her death two orphans are left totally destitute, the little pension she received from Government having died with her” While The Royal Lady`s Magazine states “The Lady Margaret Jemima Perrott, widow of Sir Richard Perrott, Bart. Whose arduous exertions for her young and numerous offspring must still be in the recollections of the public. This highly-respected lady has closed a life of long suffering and severe trials³¹”.

Some Thoughts

Because of his deliberate misinformation of his whole life, determining the true history of Sir Richard Perrot was less about acquiring any facts and more about disproving the fiction that he had created. From the research it became possible to understand some of his means and thinking into how he described his preferred life history. Sir Richard`s methodology was to take aspects or events of notable people`s lives, particularly of those who had died, and present them as his own while at the same time always being careful to present his knowledge only on what he was fully acquainted with. The stories were then enough to be credible in some society circles, particularly when quoting their former friends and acquaintances, while at the same time being sufficiently distant from anybody`s personal experience or knowledge so avoiding any damaging facts that could show the fiction of his stories.

If there had been any truth in any of the fictional history that he had written of himself, then the name of Sir Richard Perrot would have occurred more often than in the references made in this article and in more favourable circumstances as being part of fashionable and notable society. Yet in any searches through the newspapers and journals, his name is not mentioned once as being an honoured guest or speaker at any ball or function and certainly not in any of the gossip columns of the day.

Of all his fraudulent claims, the obtaining of a warrant to be a Baronet, aroused the most comment and certainly the most indignation from Barnwell, Cokeyne and Nichols in particular, none of whom who could confirm any proof to support the claim to the warrant. In his opinion, Nichols stated;

“Sir Richard Perrott” was one of the most daring pretenders to title and pedigree in the last century, and his audacity was in several instances attended with extraordinary though transient success³², not content with that, he also had opinions of the authors of the *Baronetage* published in 1771.

Of T.L. Lowndes he writes”was one of the booksellers whose names appear on the title-page. Whether he was actually the author of this precious concoction, or whether he merely “wrote it out,” is not clearly stated; but it seems likely that it could have been composed by any but the great Sir Richard himself.” Nichols then goes on to say; “Both Kimber and Johnson, were what were then called “Book-seller` hacks,” - not genealogists by profession or predeliction`.

Nichols also makes comment on the Owen Griffiths manuscript that was printed in the *Baronetage* published in 1771;

“It is pretended that it was chiefly extracted from a pedigree compiled in the seventeenth century by one Owen Griffiths; but there is every reason to believe that this Owen Griffiths is himself as mythical a personage as those he is supposed to commemorate.. His performance is said to have had this absurdly bombastic heading...” With further additional comments, Nichols then proves all the inaccuracies of the manuscript.

But all this informed comment was long after Sir Richard had gone, the claims could have been questioned and found false at the time, but they were not and Sir Richard became a Baronet.

In researching Sir Richard Perrott, several questions were raised to which there are no obvious answers, what follows is an attempt to answer some of them, as best as possible, but, for now, the answers must remain as speculation.

Date of birth.

Officially given as 1716, this cannot be correct as his mother and fathers were baptised in 1701 and 1704 respectively, so making his date of birth more likely to be 1725 at the earliest, *IF* Richard and Rebecca married when Richard was 21 but their date of marriage cannot be confirmed. Another point to consider is his date of matriculation at Clare College, Cambridge in 1740 which typically should have been at the age of 18 or 19 so making his date of birth being 1721/2. There is no obvious answer when trying to reconcile these conflicting dates, but whatever his real date of birth is, it certainly is not 1716, so why

claim that it is?. The answer could be that the alleged original Baronetcy was created on the 1st July 1716 and that the fictional Sir James Parrot had declared that it should descend “in default, to his nephew Richard Perrott, son of his brother Richard Perrott”. So stating that Sir Richard had been born in 1716, otherwise, if Sir Richard had given his true date of birth, the fictional Sir James would have had to written a signed document stating to the effect that the title of Baronet would of passed to his brother`s as yet unknown son. So, to avoid having to produce a forged document from a fictional character, it was better for Sir Richard to claim that he was born in 1716.

The Flint Petition

How it came to be that Sir Richard presented the Flint Petition to the Prince of Wales when it should have been the duty of either Sir John Glyn, Bart., who represented the borough or Sir Roger Mostyn who represents the county is not clear. It maybe that Sir Richard had made much of his connection with Sir Robert de Cornwall and his family, in particular his mother, Dorothy Hanmer, who was the daughter of Thomas Hanmer of Flintshire, and uncle of Sir Thomas Hanmer MP for Flint 1702-1705 and so showed a familiarity of the county, but if he had acted upon anybody`s authority or recommendation to collect and deliver the petition is not known.

The Tradesman`s letter

The letter published in the London Evening Post on the 25th January 1770 is alleged to have been written by a tradesman and it contains information about Sir Richard`s immediate family and personal information of his life and behaviour . Given the social distinctions between the classes at that time, something that Sir Richard would have been very aware of, it is very unlikely that a tradesman would be in such confidence with a Baronet on such personal matters. Such as the names and addresses of his sisters, details of brothers and his first son, information of various fraudulent actions by Sir Richard and pseudonyms used by him in public places for example. The writer of the letter is anonymous, but it`s less than complimentary tone and private content suggests that it could have been written by a family member or a former close friend.

The Manchester Letter

Published in the London Evening Post on 15th February 1770, the letter describes` Sir Richard`s arrival in Manchester in a very flamboyant manner but yet having no servant and residing in a low cost inn. As a Baronet, Sir Richard exploited the conventions of genteel society and introduced himself to various

gentlemen`s houses to make his acquaintance. Having been subsequently invited inside, presumably for an evening meal, Sir Richard did not conform to the accepted rules of polite society and repeatedly behaved in a very arrogant and pompous manner towards his hosts, news of which would have travelled quickly. By an amazing coincidence, a woman arrived in Manchester claiming to be his former wife, abandoned by him in the West Indies 20 years before. Sir Richard never met her and quietly left, leaving his chaise and one of his horse`s behind.

The letter, if correct, is very revealing about the nature and temperament of Sir Richard and when combined with hints in other people`s writings, is possibly accurate. The arrival of the supposed former wife was probably not by chance and was deliberately set up by Sir Richard to provide a means of leaving Manchester quickly after realising that he had made himself unwelcome by his attitude. Why Sir Richard was in Manchester is not clear but, a very small clue at the very end of the letter states that he had come to Manchester to solicit petitions from the boroughs and presumably present them to the House of Commons or the king. Perhaps on the basis that if he had sufficiently popularised himself enough, he could stand for being a member of Parliament.

Sir Robert Perrot

Sir Robert Perrot of Richmond, Surrey is stated as having been created a Baronet on 1st July 1717 and is said to have died at Brussels on the 29th May 1759³³. Barnwell, Cokayne and Nichols are unanimous in their opinion about Robert Perrot as that no formal document can be found to support his claims to being a Baronet and that he never existed at all. Why he was created at all is also a complete mystery as his name is never mentioned in connection with anyone or anything and the suspicion is that was created by Sir Richard Perrot. It maybe that Sir Robert was created to be used as an alias or scapegoat depending upon circumstances by Sir Richard depending, to his own benefit, but there is nothing to confirm any of this. On a final note, it might be significant that Sir Richard was discharged from a debtors prison in September 1761 because of the Insolvent debtors act, If the discharge was granted after having served a two year period, similar to same events in 1770-72, Sir Richard`s sentence could of begun in 1759.

Following in the same theme of Perrot`s dying in capital cities, it was reported in the November List of Deaths 1769: "Sir Richard Perrot, Dublin"³⁴, no further explanation is given. If it was a deliberate ruse by Sir Richard, there are no apparent reasons why he would want anyone to think that he had died.

Burkes Peerage

The accepted story of Sir Richard had endured because of its inclusion as a footnote into Burke's Peerage of which the full version is repeated in the Appendix. The story contains embellishments and additional events which were not mentioned in any of Sir Richards earlier accounts of himself or by any features reported in the press. This suggests that Richard Johnson of the Baronetage of England, had been in receipt of a later manuscript written by Sir Richard after 1770 which summarised the significant achievements of his life and which ultimately passed into the ownership of John Burke. An example of an embellishment is the mention of Sir Richard having received both the order of The Red Eagle and The Black Eagle from his service in Prussia, but neither of these medals are to be seen in his portrait made in 1770. In another example where a story is revised and enhanced with his own personal knowledge, it is stated " Sir Richard received a medal, a grant of the ancient manor of Cheslemore, and other tokens of royal regard and approbation". The sentence implies that Sir Richard received a medal from the king, but, as reported in the *Gazetter* and *New Daily Advertiser*, the gold medal was presented by the Bishop of Osnabruck, Prince Frederick, the second son of George III. The medal had been struck when the prince was elected to the Bishopric. While Cheslmore manor was a place that Sir Richard would have been very familiar with as it was adjacent to Hawkesbury Grove where the Bedworth colliery was situated, both lying on the same tract of land that was prospected for coal in 1579³⁵. Cheylsmore manor became the property of the then Prince of Wales in 1609 and horse racing was held at the manor at the start of the 18th century and by the end of the 18th century it was a fashionable resort and was sold by the Prince Regent in 1819³⁶. As the Manor was leased to royalist families, it is very unlikely that Sir Richard would ever have been granted any residence there.

Military career

Sir Richard made much of his military career as in shown in *The Baronetage*² which modestly states "The present baronet is of a military genius, and was in service in East India, before he was fourteen years old, since which he has visited most of the habitable globe" while in *Burkes peerage* he is described as being at the battle of Culloden and then served in the seven year's war 1756 to 1763, and received awards and commissions due to his "high military abilities". Unfortunately for Sir Richard, the battle of Culloden was fought on the 16th April 1746, at the time when he was enjoying the life of a fellow at Queens college, Cambridge from 1745 to 1749. Further to this, research shows that Sir Richard Perrot (or any variation of that name) never held any rank of officer

either in the army or the Royal Navy from 1745 to 1747^{37,38}, nor did he ever serve in The Honourable East India Company³⁹.

Prussian Naval career

Because of a lack of any natural defensive borders, the Kingdom of Prussia under Frederick the Great concentrated its efforts on a land army and maintained a very small navy. In September 1759, the complete force of 13 makeshift warships was lost at the battle of Frisches Haff against Sweden, but the ships were replaced by 1760 and the flotilla continued to serve until the end of the war in 1763. As Sir Richard was released from the Debtors prison in 1761 in which he could have served for up to two years previously, the claim that he had been appointed Lord High Admiral of the Prussian Navy to raise a fleet would neatly coincide with the historical events and could have been used as a reason as to why he had not been seen in public for those two years. However, this presumed length of time in prison coincides with the complaint made against him in the House of Commons in March 1761 which suggests that he was not in prison at that time so making the theory of imprisonment for any length of time uncertain.

The Wilkite riots

John Wilkes, 17th October 1725 to 26th December 1795, was born in Clerkenwell, London, the second son of a prosperous distiller. He became a Member of Parliament for Middlesex in 1757, on the rights of voters to elect their MP's, not Parliament. In 1763 Wilkes was charged with seditious libel by opposing the King's speech and in 1764 was charged with obscene and seditious libel. Wilkes fled to France but returned in 1768 and was imprisoned in the King's Bench prison. His supporters gathered outside and were fired upon by troops where 7 people were killed and 17 wounded in what became known as the St George's Fields Massacre. For supporting the government and the action of the troops, Hugh Kelly's play at the Drury Lane theatre was abandoned by a riot caused by Wilkes' supporters. Subsequently Wilkes was re-elected as MP for Middlesex in 1769, became sheriff of London in 1771 and Mayor of London in 1774.

Sir Richard claimed that as a consequence of his loyal petition of Flint, a Wilkite mob, attacked his house and conveniently removed all of its valuable contents and burnt them all in front of his house. As ever, Sir Richard is consistent in mis-quoting historical dates and the Wilkite riots were a feature of London in 1768, not any later. The claim that all of his valuables were burnt in front of his house was a convenient means of being able to lose all of the awards and commendations that he claimed to possess.

Influential acquaintances and names

The list of names below consists of people that Sir Richard Perrot had acquaintance with, connection with as reported by the press, made reference to in his various articles or had used aspects of their lives for his own fictional career.

Note- The italics highlight the features of an individual's biography that were used by Sir Richard Perrot to create his own fictionalised history.

Blackett, Sir Edward 4th Baronet (1719-1804) of Matfen, Northumbria.
MP for Northumberland 1768-1774.

Proposed as MP for Northumberland by Lord Percy and Sir Walter Blackett. Spoke at parliament about a dozen times and was noted as a government supporter and never supported any opposition to the crown⁵. Supported Earl Percy and Edwin Sandys for their election as MP's for Westminster.

Boscawen, Hon. John (1714-67) of Hanover Square, London.

MP for Truro 1747 to 1767

Served in the Dragoon Guards, Captain in the 3rd Horse Guards, Captain and Lt-Colonel in the 1st Foot Guards, Colonel 25th Foot Regiment, Colonel 45th Foot Regiment. *Master of the Horse to the Duke of Cumberland 1747-57, served in Flanders with the 1st Foot Guards in the seven years war*

Charles Cornwall 1669-1718 of Berrington, Herefordshire.

MP for Bewdley 1709-1710, Weobley 1715-1718

Baptised 9th August 1669, 1st surviving son of Robert Carnewall, MP of Berrington. Entered the Royal navy in 1683, became a captain in 1693, Commander in Chief 1710, Commander in Chief of the Mediterranean 1716-1718, Plenipotentiary to the Sultan of Morocco Mohammed III, 1717-1718. Enjoyed a varied naval career and became an MP whilst on half-pay with no appointed command. His second Marriage was to Dorothy Hanmer, daughter of Thomas Hanmer of Flintshire, uncle of Sir Thomas Hanmer, MP for Flint 1702-1705. The Cornwalls had fourteen children, of which six survived to become adults. Charles died at Lisbon on the 7 October from wounds received in the battle of Cape Passaro as second in command to Admiral Byng.⁵

Sir Robert de Cornwall 1700-1756 of Berrington, Herefordshire.

MP for Leominster, Herefordshire 1747- 1754

Baptised 21st Apr. 1700, 1st surviving son of Admiral Charles Cornwall. Entered the army in 1715 and joined the 2 Dragoon Guards but appears not to have risen above the rank of lieutenant by the time he left in 1718 when he succeeded to the family estates after his father died in October 1718. Soon afterwards, Robert assumed the style of `Sir Robert de Cornwall, Bt. *on the strength of an alleged promise made by George I (d. 1727) to make his father a baronet.* After unsuccessfully contesting Leominster in 1734 and 1742, he became MP for Leominster in 1747 where Leominster had a reputation for venality and most of the elections for the seat of Leominster from 1715 to 1754 went to the `best bidder`, He stood unsuccessfully for Bishop`s Castle in 1754, dying 11th April 1756.⁵

Fitzroy Scudamore, Charles (c. 1713-82) of Holme Lacy, Herefordshire.

MP for Thetford 1733-68, 1774-83, Heytesbury 1768-74

Captain of the 1st Foot Regiment in 1735, Captain, Lieutenant Colonel and Second Major to 1748.

Master of the kings tennis courts 1733-1762, Groom Porter 1743-1762, deputy cofferer 1765-70

Mostly supported the administration of Parliament and its policies and actively supported his nephew the 3rd Duke of Grafton, who was to become prime minister 1768 to January 1770. Charles was certainly an acquaintance of The Duke of Cumberland⁵.

Greatheed, Samuel (c.1710-65), of Guy`s Cliffe, nr. Warwick.

MP for Coventry 1747 -1761

Originally from St Kitts in the Caribbean, settled in Guy`s Cliffe, which he bought in 1754. Only notable action in the House of Commons was the road improvement motion between Coventry and Banbury in 1755⁵.

Keith, James Frances Edward (11th June 1696-14th October 1758)

Initially a Jacobite he fled to Europe to join the Spanish and fought in the Anglo-Spanish war in 1727 then he joined the Russian army and fought in the Russo-Swedish war, 1741-1743 and became viceroy of Finland. Subsequently, *he served in the Prussian army where he distinguished himself in several campaigns* and was killed at the battle of Hochkirk and *he received the order of the Black Eagle.*

Percy, Hugh, Lord Warkworth (1742-1817).

MP for Westminster 1763-1776

Ensign 24th Foot Regiment 1759, Captain 85th Foot Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel 111 Foot Regiment 1762 Captain 1st Guards 1762-64, Colonel 5th Regiment 1768-84, Major-General 1775, Colonel 2nd Troop Horse Grenadier Guards 1784-86, Colonel 2nd Life Guards 1788 1817.

Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland 1786-99, 1802-1817

Supported the administration of the day but voted against the Administration on the Middlesex election 1770 for John Wilkes⁵.

Perrot, Henry (1689-1740) of Northleigh , Oxfordshire.

MP for Oxfordshire 1721 to 1740

Came from a staunchly royalist family and voted against every recorded division of the Parliament. He went to the south of France in 1738 to meet the Duke of Ormonde and maintained close connection with the Duke. *Henry died near Paris in January 1740*⁵

Perrot, Herbert (c. 1617-83) of Wellington, Herefordshire and Haroldstone, Pembrokeshire.

MP for Weobley 1659 and 1660

Held various public offices where the most significant were Sheriff, and later collector of taxes for Herefordshire. His parents were minor gentry, living at Moreton-on Lugg in Herefordshire. He is noted for being mostly inactive as an MP and is more known for his offices held in Herefordshire and Pembrokeshire. His only son, a clever satirist, had been stabbed to death after `using provoking language` at `The Devil ` Tavern in 1678⁵

Perrot, James (c.1571-1637), of Westmede , Carmarthenshire and Haroldstone, Pembrokeshire.

MP for Haverfordwest at various dates from 1597 to 1628, MP for Pembrokeshire 1624 and 1626.

Illegitimate son of Sir John Perrot, later to become his heir. Had a prestigious career in the House of Commons , while under the patronage of the Earl of Essex. Held several commissions including *Deputy Lieutenant and commissioner against piracy* in Pembrokeshire in 1634. He died in 1637, bequeathing all his lands and properties to his distant cousin, Herbert Perrot⁵.

Powlett, Lord Harry , 4th Duke of Bolton (1729-1794).

MP for Christchurch 1751-54, Lymington 1755-61, Winchester 1761-65.

Lieutenant Royal Navy 1739, Captain 1740, Rear Admiral 1756, Vice Admiral 1759, Admiral of the Blue 1770, of the White 1775.

Although intervened 14 times in debates in the House of Commons concerning the Royal Navy is noted as being very undistinguished in speech⁵.

Sandys, Hon. Edwin(1726-97) of Ombersley, Worcestershire.

MP for Droitwich 1747-54, Bossiney 1754-61, Westminster 1762-1770.

Lord of Admiralty April-July 1757

Not known to have spoken in the House of Commons, described in *The Gentleman's* magazine `he had no great judgement of his own, but was easily guided: *very conversant in English History* and forms of parliament, especially on the House of Commons` and is noted as having died `immensely rich`.

Notes

1 www.oxforddnb.com

2 *The Baronetage of England containing a Genealogical and Historical Account of all the English Baronets* Vol 3 By E. Kimber and R. Johnson Published 1771 pp. 458 to 467

3 *Home Office Papers of the reign of George III 1766-1769* Published by Her Majesty's Public Record Office 1879 pp.102,103,278

4 *The Complete Baronetage* Published in 5 volumes in 1906. In Volume 5, pages 33 to 38 cover various Perrott Baronets with just over three pages devoted to the claims of Richard Perrott.

5 www.historyofparliamentonline.org

6 *The Parish Registers of Broseley 1570 to 1750* in 2 Volumes Pub. 1890

7 www.familysearch.org

8 *Shropshire Parish Registers, Diocese of Lichfield, Vol XVI, St. Chad's Shrewsbury* Vol 2 Pub. 1916 pp.1021, 1042,1328,1333.

9 *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Fourth Series Vol VII* Published 1918-19 p. 7

10 *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, by John Venn, published 1924 p.313

11 www.queens.cam.ac.uk `Queens College Cambridge Fellows 1700-1799`

12 www.nmrs.org.uk

13 *Broseley and its surroundings* by James Randall, Published 1879 pp 38, 121

14 *The Gentlemans Magazine:or Monthly Intelligencer for the year 1733* Vol III

p.48

- 15 British History online `The City of Coventry; the outlying parts of Coventry, Foleshill
- 16 Journals of the House of Commons. From May 31st 1754 to November 15th 1757, Vol. 27 published 1803 pp.103,104, 483
- 17 Journals of the House of Commons. From December the 1st 1757 to March the 19th, 1761, Vol 28 published 1803 pp. 1097 , 1107, 1108, index
- 18 Also noted in *The Jurist: containing reports of cases determined in law and equity, during the year 1839 Published 1840 issue no. 145 Oct 19 1839* p. 906
- 19 The London Gazette Number 10138 p. 33
- 20 The Gentleman`s Magazine Historical Chronicle Vol XL for the year 1770 February issue pp.42,43,51,52, 59,60
- 21 The Political Register and Impartial View for 1770 Vol. 6
- 22 The London Evening Post 26th April 1770
- 23 The Public Advertiser 14th June 1770
- 24 The Town and Country Magazine Vol II for the year 1770 p. 120
- 25 www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online
- 26 Sayer and Bennett`s Enlarged Catalogue of new and Valuable Prints p.18
- 27 Journals of the House of Commons From November the 26th, 1778 to August the 24th, 1780 Reprinted 1803 pp 523, 526
- 28 www.courtOfficers.ctsdh.luc.edu `The database of Court Officers 1660-1837` Providing the career histories of every remunerated officer and servant of the English royal household.
- 29 www.thepeerage.com
- 30 www.leighrayment.com/baronetage
- 31 The Royal Lady`s Magazine and Archives of the Court of St. James`s Vol 3 Published 1832 p. 28
- 32 The Herald and Genealogist Vol 8 published 1874, edited by John Gough Nichols. `Sir Richard Perrott, a Soi-Distant Baronet pp 314 to 324
- 33 The Gentleman`s Magazine Historical Chronical Vol XXIX for the year 1759, June issue p.293
- 34 The Gentleman`s Magazine Historical Chronicle Vol XXXIX for the year 1769, November issue p.608
- 35 www.denspages.co.uk/roots/foleshill `Foleshill History`
- 36 www.british-history.ac.uk/vch.warks/vol8 `The City of Coventry`
- 37 The Army List of 1740 reprinted 1931
- 38 The National Archives Reference 729-01-01 1740 and reference 72986-01-04 1747.
- 39 www.fibis.org `Families In British India Society`

APPENDIX

Extract from *A Genealogical and Heraldic DICTIONARY of the PEERAGE AND BARONETAGE of the BRITISH EMPIRE* By John Burke Esq. Eighth Edition 1845
Page 787 Perrott.

SIR JAMES PERROTT, who, in reward for eminent diplomatic services, was created a Baronet 1 July, 1716 with limitations to his nephew.

SIR RICHARD PERROTT, who s.as 2nd bart. in 1731. This gallant officer, who was the eldest son of R. Perrott esq., of Broseley, Salop, by Rebecca, dau. of J. Wyke, Esq. of Wacton Court, Herefordshire, was present at the battle of Culloden, in personal attendance on the Duke of Cumberland; he subsequently entered the service of Frederic the Great of Prussia, and serving in the “seven years war,” obtained the order of the Red Eagle; such was that renowned monarch’s confidence in his high military abilities, that he appointed Sir Richard his lord-high-admiral, with authority to raise a fleet, with power to commission both naval and marine officers and forces; (a copy of the commission, which was conferred on Sir Richard Perrott on the 24th of Oct. 1758, was published in “Kimber’s Baronetage for 1771; but not the private instructions which are, with the former, in the hands of the present baronet.) His acceptance of this brilliant and extraordinary command having been forbidden by the English government, Sir Richard was employed in several confidential negotiations, for which he received the order of the Black Eagle; and was, by Louis XV. of France, created a Baron, with the privilege of the “Tabourette” to his lady, and the wives of his successors. Sir Richard received from King George III. A regal warrant, dated the 3rd January, 1767, under the royal sign-manual, and the privy seal, countersigned by the minister of state for the Home Department, Field-Marshal H.S. Conway, confirming the baronetcy to him and his heirs male, which was entered in the Earl-Marshal’s Book L. 33, fol. 58, In the College of Arms, and registered 2 August 1767, by Somerset and Lancaster heralds, by authority of a warrant from the Deputy Earl-Marshal, Lord Scarborough, on the 30th July, 1767. Three years afterwards in the Wilkes riots, Sir Richard brought up the loyal Flint address, for which he received an autograph letter of thanks, by command of the King, from the Prince of Wales, then only eight years of age. His attachment to the crown, at this perilous period, led to his house in Gloucester View, Park-Lane, being dismantled by the mob, and its costly effects burnt before it. Sir Richard received a medal, a grant of the ancient manor of Cheslemore, and other

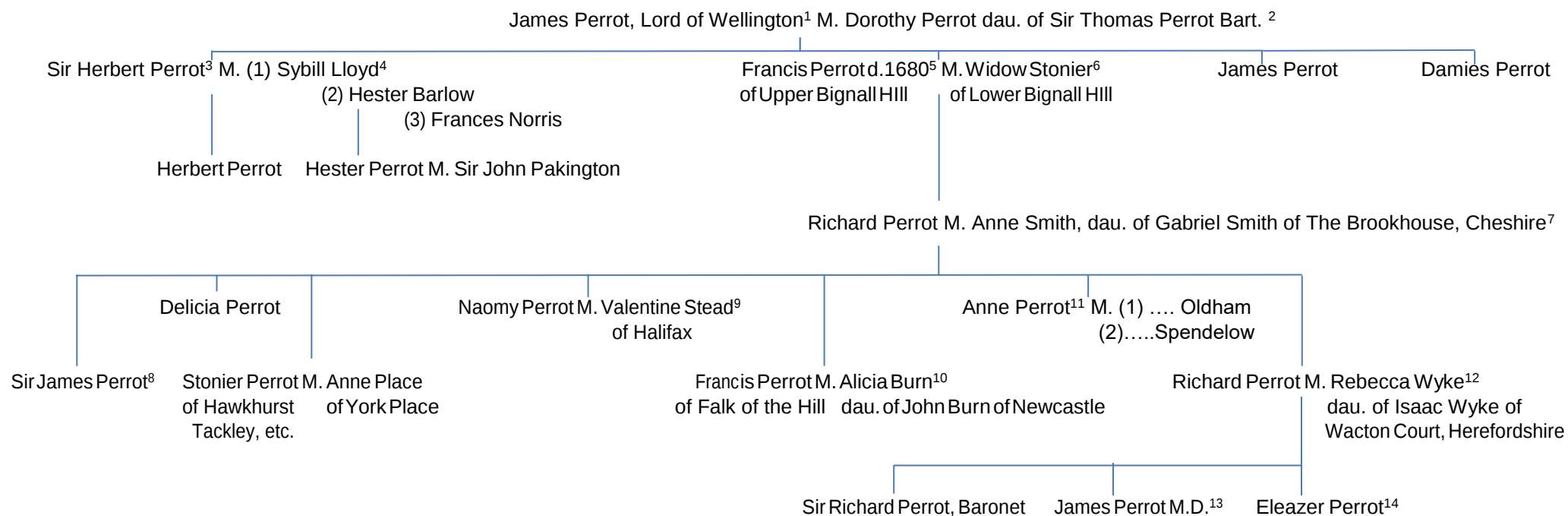
tokens of royal regard and approbation. He *m.* Margaret, dau. of Captain Fordyce, gentleman of the bedchamber to his majesty George III., and by her, who was the great-grand-niece of John. Duke of Argyll, had a son and successor, the present baronet.

Arms-(See Burkes`s General Armory)

Ancient Seats-Narberth Castle, Haroldston , Woodstock Castle and Carew Castle.

Residence-The Mount, near Woolwich.

**Pedigree according to Richard Perrot in
`The Baronetage of England` Published 1771**



1) b.1571, d. 1637, illegitimate son Sir John Perrot by Sybil Jones. Of Westmeade, Carmarthenshire and Haroldstone, Pembrokeshire, MP for Haverfordwest 1597 to 1621 and 1628 MP for Pembrokeshire 1624 to 1626. Never held the title of Lord of Wellington, bequeathed Haroldstone and lands in Haverfordwest to a distant cousin, Herbert Perrot (3), of Moorstown Herefordshire. Married Mary Ashfield of Chesham, Buckinghamshire

2) Never existed; Sir Thomas Perrot b.1553, d. 1594, of Haroldstone and Narberth, 1st son of Sir John Perrot, MP for Pembrokeshire 1572 and 1593, Cardiganshire 1586. Married Dorothy Devereux, b.1564 d. 3rd August 1619, with no male heirs, his estate was divided between his wife and their daughter Penelope.

3) b. c. 1617, d. 1st Aug 1683 of Wellington, Herefordshire, and Haroldstone, MP for Weobley 1659 to 1660 and Haroldstone 1677. 1st son of Robert Perrott of Moreton-on-Lugg, Herefordshire and Fortuna Tomkyns. 1st married Jane Lloyd of Cilceffeth, Pembrokeshire before 1643, d. 9th January 1667, 2nd marriage to Hester Barlow of Slebech, Pembrokeshire, 3rd Marriage in 1668 to Susanna Norreys of Weston on the Green, Oxfordshire.

4) Should be Jane Lloyd.

5) Unable to confirm any burial for Francis Parrot, but there is a recorded burial at Audley in Staffordshire for John Parratt on 26th February 1680

6) Unable to confirm a marriage between Francis Perrott and anyone with the surname Stonier.

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- 7) Richard and Anne Smyth married 15th March 1683, Dilhorne, Staffordshire. Anne Smith was baptised 29th October 1660 at Audlem, Cheshire. The Brookhouse is Brookhouse, part of the township of Rainow, near Macclesfield, Cheshire.
- 8) Uncle to Sir Richard Parrot who is alleged to have been granted a Baronetcy on the 1st July 1716 for aiding the finance of an expedition to the Mediterranean by Admiral Cornwall. Baptised as Jacobus (in English translates to James) Son of Richard Parrat on 28th August 1695 at St James`s church Audley, Staffordshire. Buried 14<sup>th</sup> October 1697 at St James`s church, Audley Staffordshire.
- 9) Valentine Stead was baptised 30th June 1699 in Ludlow Shropshire, parents John and Priscilla Stead. Naomi Parrott and Valentine Stead married on 30th May 1717, at St James`s, Audley, Staffordshire.
- 10) Unable to confirm marriage of Francis Perrot to Alicia Burn, but there is a marriage of Francis Parratt to Alice Dickinson 25th October 1714 at Horton, near Leek, Staffordshire
- 11) Ann Parrot Married John Oadhams on the 5th February 1724 at St James`s, Audley, Staffordshire. John Odams was buried 3rd May 1726 at Wolston, Warwickshire. Anne Oadham married Peter Spendelow on the 18th December 1728 at Trentham, Staffordshire.
- 12) Unable to confirm the marriage of Richard Parrot and Rebecca Wyke. Richard Parrott baptised at St James`s, Audley, 19th September 1704, father Richard Parratt of Bignall End. Rebecca Wyke baptised 3rd October 1701, Wacton Herefordshire, Father Isaac Wyke, Mother Rebecca Wyke.
- 13) Unable to confirm.
- 14) Unable to confirm.
- 7) Richard and Anne Smyth married 15th March 1683, Dilhorne, Staffordshire. Anne Smith was baptised 29th October 1660 at Audlem, Cheshire. The Brookhouse is Brookhouse, part of the township of Rainow, near Macclesfield, Cheshire.
- 8) Uncle to Sir Richard Parrot who is alleged to have been granted a Baronetcy on the 1st July 1716 for aiding the finance of an expedition to the Mediterranean by Admiral Cornwall. Baptised as Jacobus (in English translates to James) Son of Richard Parrat on 28th August 1695 at St James`s church Audley, Staffordshire. Buried 14<sup>th</sup> October 1697 at St James`s church, Audley Staffordshire.
- 9) Valentine Stead was baptised 30th June 1699 in Ludlow Shropshire, parents John and Priscilla Stead. Naomi Parrott and Valentine Stead married on 30th May 1717, at St James`s, Audley, Staffordshire.
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- 13) Unable to confirm.
- 14) Unable to confirm.

Parratt of St James Church, Audley, Staffs from the Parish registers
1538 to 1712

1642 Oct 12 Matrimon Will Stonier¹ Anna Whytoughe P. 159

1653 Apr 12 birth of Thos Parratt son of Francis Parratt P. 127

1658 Aug 10 borne a female childe of Francis Parratt P. 131

1662 Sept 9 Ricus fi Rici Parat P. 84

1664 May 30 Bapt. Maria fa Francisca Parrat P.87

1666 Sept 25 Bapt. Abraham fi Francisci Parrat P. 91

1680 Feb 26 Sepult John Parratt P. 140²

1684 May 9 Bur. Anna Parrat vid (vidua= widow) P.163

1684 Jun 21 Bapt. Delicia (Alicia?) fa Richard Parratt P. 160

1686 Oct 15 Bapt. Stonier fi Richard Parratt P. 162

1688 Dec 30 Bapt. Francis Parratt father Richard Parratt P. 164

1693 Apr 16 Bapt. Naomi fa Richard Parrott P. 176

1695 Aug 28 Bapt. Jacobus (Eng. James)³ fi Rich Parratt P. 168

1700 Aug 17 Bapt. Anna fi Rich Parrott P.173

1704 Sep 19 Bapt. Rich fi Rich Parrott de Bignall End Yeoman P.191

1 Sir Richard stated that Francis Parrat married Widow Stonier, unable to confirm the burial of William Stonier, it is worth noting that the English Civil War was from 1642 to 1651.

2 Sir Richard stated that Francis Perrot died in 1680, unable to confirm

3 On page (i) `Notes of Names` of the Parish Registers for St James, it states

“ Jacobus and Jacob (as the reg. is kept in latin) means James”

Complete extracts from Newspapers and Journals that mention

Sir Richard Perrot

The London Gazette Number 10138

From Tuesday September 8, to Saturday 12 1761

Page 4 .

The under-mentioned Persons claiming the Benefit of the Act lately passed for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, the following Notices have been brought to the Printers of the London Gazette, to be inserted in this Paper, and are herein inserted in Obedience to the said Act.

Page 33

Pursuant to the late Act of Parliament made in the First Year of the Reign of His present Majesty King George the Third, intituled, An Act for Relief of Insolvent Debtors, I do hereby give Notice, that I intend, at the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held in and for the County of Surrey, or any Adjournment thereof, which shall happen next after Twenty Days from the Publication hereof, to compel Richard Perrot, late of St. Mary le Strand, late of St. Martin`s in the Fields in the County of Middlesex, Esq; who is now a Prisoner and charged in Execution at my Suit, in his Majesty`s Prison of the King`s Bench in the County of Surrey, to deliver into Court, and subscribe upon oath, a schedule of all his Estate and Effects, for the Benefit of his Creditors, pursuant to the Direction of the said Act of Parliament. Witness my Hand this 12th Day of September 1761.

John Sherrat.

The Derby Mercury

Friday March 25 1768

At Eleven o`Clock Yesterday Morning, the Rt. Hon. Earl Percy, and the Hon. Mr Sandys, attended by a numerous Cavalcade of Gentlemen, came on the Hustings in Covent-Garden. The Head Quarters were at the Thatched House Tavern in St. James`s Street; from thence the two Candidates, preceded by a Band of Music, Flags, &c. and followed by a long train of coaches, with vast numbers of the Constituents on Foot. After the Proclamation was read, Sir Wm. Beauchamp Proctor Bart. and Knight of the Bath, named the above Gentlemen as Candidates, and was supported by Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. Sir Edward Blacket, Bart. and Sir Henry Cheers, Bart. when, after waiting the usual time, and no other Candidate appearing, the High Bailiff declared the Rt. Hon. The Earl Percy, and the Hon. Mr Sandys, duly elected to serve as Burgesses in the ensuing Parliament for the City and Liberty of Westminster, very much to the Honour of the incredible Numbers who assembled on this Occasion. There was not the least Tumult, Riot or Noise, save the repeated joyous, Acclamations of the delighted Populace.

Their Majesties and the young Princes viewed the above Procession Yesterday from the Windows of Lady Charlotte Finch`s Apartments at St james`s.

Public Advertiser
27th June 1768

This Day is published, Price 1s. 6d.

The Liberty of the subject, and Dignity of the Crown, maintained and secured without the Application of a Military unconstitutional force, or the Tyranny of any inconsiderate Minister; supported by the Opinion of a Lord High Chancellor of England. Inscribed to Sir Richard Perrot Bart.

Printed for G. Kearsly, in Ludgate-street; J. Alman, - opposite Burlington House, Piccadilly; B. White, in Fleet-street; and N. young, under the Royal-Exchange.

London Evening Post
December 30th 1769

Note- page is badly torn

....of a letter from Flint, Dec. 24th

.... has hitherto took no party, though the
.....petitioning has often been mentioned
.....called for that purpose ; either they
...at prodigious danger which has been
.....from one end of the land to the other;
....apprehension. Yesterday, at the
... county court, it came oxxxetapis;
Richards Perrot, Bart. coming with a
....of Gentlemen from the mountains,
... to take the chair after drinking
 `The King
 `The Prince of Wales
...Princess Dowager of Wales and Royal Family
..werend to posterity an unimpaired
 Constitution
The petitioners whose mean honour to, and ho-
 nestly by their King and Country
The patriot who generously and unprejudiced

defends his hereditary liberties.
 The minister whose steady deportment preserves
 the union of King and people
 The sense of the freeholders and burgesses present
 was collected and Sir Richards desired to take
 the chair. A petition to the Prince of Wales
 and one to his majesty, agreeable to instructions,
 was immediately read, approved, and signed,
 They are of a distinct species from the new mode
 of petitioning. They were left the next day at
 the Ship and White Lion, when almost every man
 in the borough and barony signed it; and this day
 Sir Richard Perrot, and his company, left the
 town. The petition was dispatched for London,
 and it is hoped, as the antient Britons have always
 been steady, and brave as loyal, they will be
 honourably and graciously received.
 It is certain, that petitioning is now in vogue in
 Wales.

The Gentleman`s Magazine February 1770

`Mr Perrots Speech for an address` page 51

An article that reported on a Debating Society that modelled itself on the House of Commons was reported by TRYO. , dated Jan 10th 1770.

The K---- S----- being read, Mr Rankwell moved for an address. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parrot, who spoke to the following effect:

Mr Speaker,

It is with pleasure that I rise up on this occasion, to remark a new instance of that paternal care in our most gracious S-----n, which distinguishes the father of his people. Objects which in themselves are the most important, do not always strike the mind with the greatest force. The encroachments of princes upon the dominions of each other, the deposition on one S-----n, and the establishment of another, fill the minds of those with solicitude and perturbation, to whom the influence of such events can never reach, or to whom they would produce much less evil than the wars that are undertaken to repress or prevent them: Men clamour for war, and are impatient for the march of armies, and the sailing of fleets, who never reflect, that in peace life is preserved, and that in war it is lost: that in peace the publick expense is small, in war it is great, and that every individual will find it more difficult to subsist, in proportion as he pays subsidies for the destruction of others, But the disease of a beast, and the distress of a farmer, are objects which strike only

those who only see important events in small causes; a distemper among cattle, is a calamity, which if it prevails, will enter every door; it will spread like the shadows of the night, a darkness, which like that of Egypt will be felt. It is now ravaging a neighbouring State, and that at present a small circle circumscribes it at home, it is owing to the vigilance of his M---y, whose eye is always watching over us for good. In the measures that have been taken for that purpose. It was necessary to assume a power which the Laws of this country made for general purposes, have not given, and I am sure that this House will readily and joyfully concur in every measure that shall be thought requisite for the indemnification of those whom the unavoidable imperfection of the best constitution in the world has left liable to punishment, for their readiness to render a most important service to the publick. But his ***** has not been less attentive to preserve peace, than to prevent scarcity; he has with great wisdom concerted measures with the powers in alliance with Great Britain, to prevent the calamities of war, which include all others; he has not indeed succeeded so far as to prevent war, but he has prevented its miseries from spreading it to this country, either immediately, or by consequence. It is surely to be regretted, that those who are under the government of such a *****, are not disposed to concur in his measures, that they are unwilling to receive the blessings which he is solicitous to bestow, and while he is administering g-----t with benevolence and wisdom, oppose it with all the vehemence and obstinacy that folly and tyranny only could justify; It is to be regretted, that no measures have yet been effectual, to bring our A-----n C---s

To a sense of their interest and their duty; and I hope and trust that this H---e will zealously and unanimously co-operate with his ***** in every measure that may tend to secure their dependence, and prevent the evils which cannot but arise from a contumacious refusal of obedience to the laws of the state. I shall therefore, Sir propose an address, "To express our serious concern, that the most alarming distemper amongst the horned cattle, appears to have broken out in some parts of the kingdom; and that we will not fail to take this most important matter into our immediate consideration, and guard, as far as human wisdom can provide, against the danger of so great a calamity becoming general.

"To rejoice at the prospect which the assurance given by the other great powers afford, that the present disturbances will not extend to any part where the security, honour, or interest of this nation may make it necessary to become a party; and that we observe with great satisfaction, the determination not to acknowledge any claims of any other powers, contrary to the limitations of the late t----y of p----e.

"To declare, that no endeavours shall be wanting, to provide against the unwarrantable measures carried on by some of his ***** C---s, contrary to every principle of commercial subservency that ought to prevail in C-----s.

"To declare that we will cheerfully grant the necessary -----

"To acknowledge the welfare of these kingdoms, to have been the constant object of his ***** wishes, and invariable rule of his actions.

"To offer our most dutiful thanks for his ***** favourable opinion of our conduct.

"that we will make it our study to avoid heats and animosities amongst ourselves. And trust that all who live under this happy constitution will be convinced how indispensably it is their duty to pay obedience to the laws and
Just reverence to lawful authority."

Gazetteer and new Daily Advertiser
15th January 1770

L O N D O N

On Monday last. At noon, the Hon. Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. arrived from Wales at the Queens Palace, with the Petition from Flint, and had the honour to be introduced to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to whom he presented the following petition.

The most humble Petition of the Bailiff, Corporation, Borough and Barony of Flint
May it please your Royal Highness

“Instigated by our loyalty and attachment to your Royal person and House, We, the Bailiff and Corporation of the Town and Borough of Flint, one of the antient Baronies within your principality of Wales, seeing that Petitions and Addresses are sent up to your Royal Father, from distant parts of this kingdom, on the most interesting subjects to us and our posterity, humbly presume to solicit your Royal Highness, as the immediate delegate through which his Majesty`s goodness will shine with more splendour upon us, to lay at the foot of his Throne, the collective Petition of a corps of your antient Britons, who are so steady in their loyalty and affection to their Sovereign, that from the Barons first acceptance of a Prince, heir apparent to the British sceptre, and born in Wales, they were never found in arms against their lawful King, or their fidelity impeached – a people whose lives and fortunes your Highness may at any time call forth to support the just rights and prerogatives of his Majesty`s Crown- and we shall as in duty and affection bound , ever pray, &c.”

After his Royal Highness had read it, Sir Richard, on his knee, presented that for the King, which the Prince, with great affability, promised to deliver, of which the following is a copy:

To the KING

Illustrious Sire,

“Ever grateful for the successive blessings we your Majesty`s dutiful and most loyal subjects, the Bailiff and Corporation of the Town and Borough of Flint, one of the ancient Baronies within your Majesty`s sovereignty of Wales, have experienced under the auspices of your august House, and sorry from our souls that your Majesty`s reign, which began with universal applause, should be so soon disturbed by the fury and contention of outrageous and ingrate parties , whose laborious zealots are dispatched to every corner of your dominions, to propagate ideas of partial justice being administered in your Courts of Law, and have even dared to asperse the reputation of that high palladium of the British

Constitution, the British House of Commons by devoting them to the service of an arbitrary Minister, whom they represent in the most base terms, guilty of tyrannical and enormous abuses.

“That our dearest liberties, purchased and sealed with the choicest blood of our fathers, are in the utmost danger of being separated from us for ever,

“xxxxxxxxxx we see intermeddling in Civil cases, and leave their cures and pulpits, to teach seditious principles to the people and point out the road to political perfection, depending on popular licentiousness, and the timidity of the diocesan.

“While the cool and considerate are astonished at the inactivity of your Majesty’s servants and ministers of justice, who permit riots successfully, in the Capital of your Royal residence, nay, even at your Palace Gates, and the perpetrators and abettors are suffered to go unpunished.

“Apprehensive for the consequences, should the parliament be dissolved, and alarmed for your Majesty’s health, whose paternal and watchful care at this crisis must greatly endanger it, we most humbly beseech you, most gracious sire, to destroy all future hopes of succeeding to any share of your Royal favour by tumult and disorder; to support administration against faction, should nothing criminal be lawfully opposed to them.

“The three powers which constitute this mighty state, when unanimous, can give law to the world, yet either may err and wound themselves: should it be found that the essentials of our glorious constitution have received an injury, we confidently trust in your Majesty’s *own* patriotic wisdom for a remedy, but most fervently implore (for the peace of every county in your dominions) that no dissolution take place.

“And we shall, as in duty bound, for ever, pray, &c.”

On Tuesday at noon Sir Richard Perrot, Bart., was again introduced to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, when his Highness with great goodness and sentiment, expressed his affection for his loyal and brave Britons, and commanded Sir Richard to communicate to them what his Highness then delivered to him, in his own hand-writing, as an answer to the Flint Petition

(COPY)

“Sir Richard Perrot may assure the Barony of Flint, that I have delivered the Petition to the King and am much pleased with the loyalty and affection to the King, and to myself, expressed by the antient Britons on this occasion.

GEORGE, Prince of Wales

Jan. 9 1770

At the same time his Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnabrug, did Sir Richard the honour to present him with a gold medal, struck on his Royal Highness’s election to the Bishopric.

Sir Richard Perrot was at the Queens House near an hour each day and had the honour to kiss the Royal hands of the three Princes, and to be introduced to the Princess Royal.

London Evening Post 16th January 1770

To the Printer of the London Evening Post

SIR,

The account which you favoured the publick with a few posts ago, of the Indisposition of Sir Richard Perrot, would have escaped my observation, and probably that of many of your readers (as a matter of little importance to us) had not the truth of that account been denied in you subsequent paper, in a most formal manner, by Mr Radenhurst, the present rector of Heswall.

Whether the indignation of the reverend clergyman was roused, at seeing what he thought a falsity in your paper, or whether he was glad of an opportunity of joining his own name with the name of Sir Richard, I will not take upon me to determine. But the extraordinary manner, in which this account of the Baronet's health is obtruded upon the publick, induced me to search the Baronetage, in order to see who this Sir Richard Perrot was, and to my great surprize (would you believe it, sir) I cannot find there is any such man living.

In the list of Baronets published by Woodsal for the present year, I observe the name of Sir Richard Perrot is mentioned, and a very pompous coat of arms is given him, in which the supposed Baronet has very modestly introduced the arms of England, and graced the escutcheon with supporters. But as that list mentions his creation as a Baronet, to have been so long ago as the year 1716,

and yet no such name is to be found in the authentic lists, a doubt arises whether the two figures supporting this supposed Baronet's arms are not the identical pictures of Mr. Woodsal, the list printer, and the Rev. Mr. Radenhurst, the rector of Heswall.

If there is really such a Baronet as Sir Richard Perrot living, the author of this paper begs his pardon for the doubts which he has now raised, and hopes, when a new edition of the Baronetage comes out, the publick will be informed for what notable services Sir Richard's family became entitled to use the arms of England, and to have supporters, but if there is in fact no such Baronet, then the author hopes he is entitled to the thanks of his fair countrywomen, for guarding them against an infamous fortune-hunter, who may endeavour to deceive them by a borrowed title.

Wrexham,
Dec. 28, 1769

I am, your constant reader,
ANTI-BOASTER

London Evening Post

18th January 1770

For the London Evening Post

A *Freeborn* Petitioner of Westminster, and a *Freeman*, presents his compliments to Sir John Fielding, and the rest of his Majesty's Justices of Peace for Middlesex and Westminster, to the several keepers of Newgate, New Prison, Clerkenwell Bridewell, The Gatehouse, and Tottenham Fields Bridewell, and begs the favour of them to acquaint him with the particulars which have fallen in their way, relative to the *life, character and behaviour* of one who calls himself *Richard Perrot*, alias Sir *Richard Perrot*, Bart. He would Also be much obliged to the inhabitants of Richmond, and of Upper Grosvenor-street, for the like information. As it is supposed that a person who has lately assumed that name and character as a grand imposter. Any information sent to the printer, will be received with thanks.

N.B. The above person pretends to have been
Made a Baronet by the King of Prussia.

The London Evening Post Tuesday January 23rd 1770 page 1

We hear that Sir R----d P-----t, Bart. had the honour of playing at Taw on Monday and Tuesday last with his R.H. the P. of W-----. He was at the Q----'s House near an hour each day. It is said he will be appointed premier play-mate to the P---ce, Master of the rattles and purveyor of sugar-plumbs to the B---- of O-----, in consideration of the sugared words, as Shakespeare calls them, which he lately brought from the Barony of Flint to St. James's. He at the same time had the honour of being introduced to the P----ss R----l, who was most graciously pleased to appoint him gentleman usher to her doll. It is further said that he will be appointed dry-nurse to any future children of her M----y, whom she may chuse to have brought up hand. We hear that the good old women of both sexes, of the ancient Borough of F-----t, attended by gossips, nurses, &c. will meet Sir Richard on his return to Wales, in procession to congratulate him and themselves on the honours conferred on them by the sweet babes at C---t,

and to hear Sir Richard report their winning prettinesses and innocencies, and most surprising smartnesses and witticisms, and most hopeful prognosticks to these realms in general, and the ancient Borough of F---t in particular. The whole company are to refreshed by Sir R---d with caudle, pap, and panada.

London Evening Post 23rd January 1770 page 4

To the Printer of the London Evening Post

SIR,

Richard Perrot was born at Shrewsbury, son of Richard Perrot, who now keeps a chandlers-shop in that town, He has for these 25 years last past lived by tricking honest tradesmen out of their goods, and during that time has taken the name of Captain, or Sir Richard Perrot, as best suited his purpose. He was cleared last insolvent act but one in Surrey, by the name of Richard Perrot, Esq; is now run away from his bail, and has involved a large family in ruins. He took a house last year in Richmond, stripped it of all its valuables, and has disappeared ever since in that quarter. More particulars may be had, if wanted. Your`s

A Keeper of one of the Prisons.

Public Advertiser 24th January 1770

A curious Anecdote, relative to the supposed Sir Richard Perrot, Knight Errand of the County of Flint, was conveyed to the Supporters of the Bill of Rights at their last meeting, and we hear will soon be communicated to the Public.

London Evening Post Page 4 Thursday January 25 1770

To the Printer of the London Evening Post

SIR

In answer to your correspondent of the 23rd concerning Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. I would inform you, that Sir Richard was the eldest son of low, but honest industrious parents at Shrewsbury, and that his father is now living, and keeps, what we Londoners call a gin-shop, near the Bridge in that town; and that his mother was an Anabaptist, and died in October 1766. This Sir Richard went out into the world very young, as he himself hath told me. He hath a brother named James at Tewkesbury, who lives in good reputation and man-midwife. He had another brother named Eleazer, who served his apprenticeship to the said

James, and who afterwards came to London and lived in Great Ormond-street, and practised surgery and pharmacy there; and was married to Miss Gibson of Chelsea, but in a few months left London and settled at Chipfield in Kent, and is now gone as a surgeon to Bengal; as anyone may see by consulting the list of examined and approved surgeons; Sir Richard has also three sisters; one of whom lived with him some years ago in Somerset House, and was afterwards married to ----- Wilson, Esq., of Margaret Street, Cavendish Square. Another of his sisters married on Martin, a Rider, and brother to Mr Martin linen draper in Smithfield. She soon became a widow, and now lives in great reputation in Leicester Fields. And the other sister now lives with her father at Shrewsbury. Having acquainted you of Sir Richards` family, I shall now speak of himself. Sir Richard was very young when he went out into the world, and soon married. He hath one son who is heir to his estate and title; his name is James: a young fellow about nineteen, and who is now going out in the India service, as surgeon and steward. When Sir Richard first left his parents, he went into the India service himself; but where he hath lived all his life is not so well known. However he lived some years ago, as before mentioned, in Somerset House, and is well known in all that neighbourhood, but not as a baronet. About the end of the year 1767, he moved into Little Park Street, and after that into Upper Grosvenor Street; and since to R-----, As to Sir Richards title, it is as clear as a bell; for he hath often shewn it me, under the Kings` own sign manual, bearing date about 1767, and which Sir Richard Carries about him in a little case, made for that purpose. I have often had it in my hand; and once in particular, in January 1769, I had it in order to convince

Two of his Majesty`s Justices of the Peace, namely Paul Vaillant, Esq; and \_\_\_\_ Kynaston, Esq. who had stuck up notice on Sir Richards`s doors, and made use of this appellation, you Sir Richard Perrot, otherwise Richard Perrot Esq: and which notice was stuck up by way of ejectment for the arrears of ground-rent of houses which I built and repaired. While Sir Richard lived in Park-Street, he in order to show away, insinuated himself into the good graces of one Ashfield, who kept the Grosvenors Arms in that neighbourhood, by telling him, if he would only make over the property of his lease to him, he would get him ----- at the Kings Bench: and this poor fellow was induced to let him have his house for the consideration of 170l. and the promise of his having the above place, and also to pay him a certain ground-rent: but which rent was never paid, nor the consideration money. However Ashfield hath got his house back again, with all our improvements on it, by a regular course of law. Counsellor Cox gave it as his opinion, that the whole transaction was a downright fraud. While

Sir Richard was going on with these repairs, all the neighbourhood were amazed. He appeared there as a phenomenon, and was esteemed as the only person who was great with the K--- and his ministers; and no one was thought so likely to get such a place as Sir Richard; as witness the affair of Foulton and Alexander, and the watchmaker; all of which I could describe with more freedom clearness *viva voce*. Sir Richards`s character was truly delineated in the Publick Advertiser, on or about the middle of September 1767, under the name of Codreux; for his whole life, that is known, hath been one continued scene of ----. But how, or by what means he introduced himself to present the Flint petition to the Prince of Wales, is, of a piece with his whole life, altogether astonishing. There is not one tradesman besides myself, that ever got a single farthing for all the work done at the house

above-mentioned; but, after giving him a years credit, we were all promised to be paid in August 1768. I must inform you, that Sir Richard goes in different places by different names: he is well known at the Temple Exchange coffee-house by the name of Rice Powell, Esq. and at Allen`s in the Borough by some other name; and he often assumes the title of Lord. I must not forget his transaction with Lady Colington, nor of his being white-washed, nor of his taking in a Dutch merchant on his travels in Italy. I shall conclude this account, by hinting that it would make a fine subject for a political point, to draw Sir Richard presenting the petition on his knees, and we workmen coming in from behind him in our different occupations, with our bills in our hands, praying his Honour to remember us
I am, &c

Extract of a letter from Flint, with an account of the ceremony of receiving the Prince of Wales`s most gracious Answer to their Petition.

Last Saturday night Sir Richard Perrot, Bt. Arrived with his Royal Highnesses` answer to the Flint Petition, and on Sunday, it was notified that it would be publicly read on Tuesday morning. On Monday afternoon, he came to Flint, attended by some Freeholders; in the evening there was a bonfire before the Town-Hall, and all the town alive.

“Early on Tuesday morning a prodigious crowd of freeholders, burgesses, &c. were attending at the Ship: at ten the following procession began to move. Two Welsh girls (dressed extremely neat in the Welch manner) strewing flowers. The Mace-bearer, with his silver mace. Burgesses two and two. A harp, supported by two men; played on by a third. Burgesses two and two. A band of music, Burgesses two and two; The Union flag of Great Britain on a pole, supported by two sailors dressed in jackets and trowsers. Freeholders two and two. The Gold Medal of his Royal Highness the Bishop of Osnabrug, on an embroidered cushion; on each side of him four freeholders. The Baliff of the Barony and Borough, with his distinctions. Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. carrying on a crimson-velvet cushion, a very rich case enferm`d with a gold lock, containing his Royal Highness the Ptince of Wales`s Answer, wrote with his own hand to the Flint petition, supported on one side by six freeholders, and on the other by six burgesses.

“Burgesses, freeholders, &c. closing the cavalcade, The music played Briton`s strike home, till they reached the County Hall; on entering it, God Save the King. The burgesses and freeholders ranged themselves on each side of the Hall, and the two cushions were carried up the center, and passing the two galleries, were placed on two other cushions, under a canopy of heart of oak, each supporter retiring three paces from them; and making three low obeisances. For a considerable time it was impossible to restrain the acclamations of the people. Proclamation being made, Sir Richard Perrot, in an elegant speech, gave a circumstantial account of the gracious reception of their petition at the Queens`s palace, and delivered for their inspection, the gold medal of his Royal Highness Prince Frederick

had condescended to present him with. On returning it, they desired that they may be permitted to set it with diamonds, and that he would wear it at his breast: on declining the honour of the diamonds, he assured them he would wear it, but that no addition could be made to it that could give him so much pleasure as their continuing to merit the future favour of the Prince: when the population gave three cheers, and cried, God save the Prince. His Royal Highnesses Answer was then read, which was received with general joy. The people were not content with seeing and admiring the hand-writing, but, with many prayers for the King and Royal Family, kissed it, happy in this opportunity of expressing their sentiments. On Sir Richards coming down from the canopy, the freeholders caught him in their arms, placed him in a chair, and carried him in a procession back to the ship, the music playing alternatively Hearts of Oak and Prince of Wales's Birth-day. A sheep was roasted in the square before the County-Hall and a barrel of ale brought out; Sir Richard took the first half-pint to the Princes's health; when men, women and children, as by an act involuntary, Dropped on their knees. The evening concluded with a ball, and the whole was conducted with the utmost satisfaction.

"On Wednesday morning the hounds were turned out for a hunt on the mountains, and on Thursday Sir Richard, with his company, left Flint, many of the freeholders and burgesses attending him.

Sir RICHARD PERROT, Bart.

WHEREAS Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. has absconded from his bail in a certain action now depending against him in his Majesty's Court of Kings-Bench at Westminster, any person or persons procuring the surrender of the said Sir Richard Perrot in discharge of such his bail, shall, upon such surrender, receive TWENTY GUINEAS reward, to be paid by messrs. Gillieass and Broome, attornies for the bail, at their chambers in Grays-Inn, Holbourn.

The London Evening Post 10th February 1770

To the Printer of the London Evening Post.

SIR,

Reading in your paper concerning Sir Richard Perrott, who presented the Flint petition, and the name of Foulston slightly hinted at; you must know, Sir, That I am acquainted with this Foulston. He was a master lamp-lighter, and lived in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor-square. When the new pavement began to spread itself over this metropolis, Mr. F. plainly foresaw that his business would be affected by it. He immediately made the best he could of it, and intended to spend the future part of his days in some public office, providing he could make a friend who would procure him any interest in that channel. He was soon recommended to Sir Richard Perrot. After telling the worthy Baronet his message, Sir Richard touched him for a round hundred before he left his room; and in less than a

month`s time, Sir Richard had got a hundred pounds more, and gave him a receipt for two hundred pounds on account. This poor fellow was amused near eighteen months by Sir Richard, till he has almost spent his last shilling. However, as necessity is the mother of invention, Foulston, after trying every way to avail himself of his two hundred pounds, all to no purpose, he at last went to Justice Spinnage, in Oxford-road, and laid the whole transaction before that worthy magistrate. The Justice, at length with the consultation of some other of his Majesty`s Justices of the Peace, ordered Foulston to bring the gentleman that had recommended him to Sir Richard; which was Ealim, a haberdasher, in Oxford-road. The worthy magistrate before

Mentioned, examined the deponent likewise, and found that what Mr. Foulston had before said, was really a truth. He, on this report, with the proper affidavits being made, immediately granted a warrant to apprehend Sir Richard on a defraud. After the warrant being granted, the worthy magistrates then present, agreed that nothing should be done from that office unbecoming gentlemen, and sent to Sir Richard`s attorney to acquaint him with what had happened. In consequence of this, the money was paid by a generous lady, not an hundred miles from Berner`s-street. At the same time one Alexander, brother-in-law to one of the same name, who keeps a chymists`s shop, had a hundred pounds restored to him, which was obtained partly under the same pretences ; namely, Sir Richard getting him a place at Court. The watch -maker in some future paper.

A.B.

The London Evening Post Thursday Feb 15 1770

To the Printer of the London Evening Post

SIR, *Manchester , Jan. 29*

If you think it worthwhile to trouble the public with any further anecdotes of the very redoubtable Baronet, Sir Richard Perrot, the following are at your service:-

He arrived in this town sometime in last August in a very superb chariot, with arms and supporters, as described in a former paper of your`s drawn by a pair of fine chestnut horses, and drove by the very *Honourable* Baronet himself, not having a single servant with him. He took up his quarters at an obscure inn. His letters were directed to him under two different Italian names; and he affected to conceal his real one, though, at the same time he officiously shewed a Baronet`s patent, which he carried in his pocket, signed, as he pretended, by his present Majesty, and General Conway, as Secretary of state.

By the time he had began to introduce himself into a few gentlemens families in the neighbourhood, where, by the impudence of his conduct, he gave great disgust, asserting the most improbable falsities, and affectedly despising every thing that was shewn him as curious, pretending to a general and absolute knowledge, and pronouncing most

dictatorially upon subjects of which he had the most superficial ideas; any further views he might have, were prevented by a woman who happened to be in town, and declared him to have been married to him twenty years ago; that he had treated her in a most abominable manner, been guilty of crimes most shocking to humanity, and deserted her in the West-Indies; that the hearing he was dead, had married another man, and the pretended Sir Richard Perrot had since returned to England, and appeared in various characters as best suited his purpose. As to his parentage, she gave the same account as your correspondent who signs himself A Keeper of a Prison, which is confirmed by a barber in this town, who was his next door neighbour at Shrewsbury. Sir Richard was in great wrath, but carefully avoided an interview with the woman, and in a few days silently decamped, leaving his carriage and horses, and though he privately returned two or three times, did not stay above a night, and appeared to only a few chosen friends. One of his horses and his chaise still remain here, which he may perhaps fetch, when he comes to solicit petitions from the borough of Clithero and Newben, which are at least as respectable as that of Flint.

I am your constant reader

An enemy to all Imposters

P.S. By inquiring in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, you may perhaps gain intelligence by what base methods he is enabled to make the appearance he at present puts on.

The Gentleman`s Magazine February 1770

`Mr Perrots Speech for an address` page 51

An article that reported on a Debating Society that modelled itself on the House of Commons was reported by TYRO. , dated Jan 10th 1770.

The K---- S----- being read, Mr Rankwell moved for an address. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parrot, who spoke to the following effect:

“Mr Speaker,

It is with pleasure that I rise up on this occasion, to remark a new instance of that paternal care in our most gracious S-----n, which distinguishes the father of his people. Objects which in themselves are the most important, do not always strike the mind with the greatest force. The encroachments of princes upon the dominions of each other, the deposition on one S-----n, and the establishment of another, fill the minds of those with solicitude and perturbation, to whom the influence of such events can never reach, or to whom they would produce much less evil than the wars that are undertaken to repress or prevent them: Men clamour for war, and are impatient for the march of armies, and the sailing of fleets, who never reflect, that in peace life is preserved, and that in war it is lost: that in peace the publick expense is small, in war it is great, and that every individual will find it more difficult to subsist, in proportion as he pays subsidies for the destruction of others, But the disease of a beast, and the distress of a farmer, are objects which strike only those who only see important events in small causes; a distemper among cattle, is a calamity, which if it prevails, will enter every door; it will spread like the shadows of the

night, a darkness, which like that of Egypt will be felt. It is now ravaging a neighbouring State, and that at present a small circle circumscribes it at home, it is owing to the vigilance of his M---y, whose eye is always watching over us for good. In the measures that have been taken for that purpose. It was necessary to assume a power which the Laws of this country made for general purposes, have not given, and I am sure that this House will readily and joyfully concur in every measure that shall be thought requisite for the indemnification of those whom the unavoidable imperfection of the best constitution in the world has left liable to punishment, for their readiness to render a most important service to the publick. But his **** has not been less attentive to preserve peace, than to prevent scarcity; he has with great wisdom concerted measures with the powers in alliance with Great Britain, to prevent the calamities of war, which include all others; he has not indeed succeeded so far as to prevent war, but he has prevented its miseries from spreading it to this country, either immediately, or by consequence. It is surely to be regretted, that those who are under the government of such a ****, are not disposed to concur in his measures, that they are unwilling to receive the blessings which he is solicitous to bestow, and while he is administering g-----t with benevolence and wisdom, oppose it with all the vehemence and obstinacy that folly and tyranny only could justify; It is to be regretted, that no measures have yet been effectual, to bring our A-----n C---s

To a sense of their interest and their duty; and I hope and trust that this H---e will zealously and unanimously co-operate with his ***** in every measure that may tend to secure their dependence, and prevent the evils which cannot but arise from a contumacious refusal of obedience to the laws of the state. I shall therefore, Sir propose an address, "To express our serious concern, that the most alarming distemper amongst the horned cattle, appears to have broken out in some parts of the kingdom; and that we will not fail to take this most important matter into our immediate consideration, and guard, as far as

human wisdom can provide, against the danger of so great a calamity becoming general.

"To rejoice at the prospect which the assurance given by the other great powers afford, that the present disturbances will not extend to any part where the security, honour, or interest of this nation may make it necessary to become a party; and that we observe with great satisfaction, the determination not to acknowledge any claims of any other powers, contrary to the limitations of the late t----y of p----e.

"To declare, that no endeavours shall be wanting, to provide against the unwarrantable measures carried on by some of his ***** C---s, contrary to every principle of commercial subservency that ought to prevail in C-----s.

"To declare that we will cheerfully grant the necessary -----

"To acknowledge the welfare of these kingdoms, to have been the constant object of his **** wishes, and invariable rule of his actions.

"To offer our most dutiful thanks for his ***** favourable opinion of our conduct.

"that we will make it our study to avoid heats and animosities amongst ourselves. And trust that all who live under this happy constitution will be convinced how indispensably it is their duty to pay obedience to the laws and Just reverence to lawful authority."

The Gentlemans Magazine for February 1770

Particulars of the Life of the noted Perrot, who presented the Flint Petition.

This pretended baronet is plain D—k P---t, the second son of one P—r—t, a decayed distiller of Mardol, in Shrewsbury; his eldest brother an apothecary, but now practices as a physician at Tewkesbury, in Gloucestershire, by virtue of a diploma from Leyden. About nine years ago he was at Worcester, and boarded in the College Churchyard, and thought to have carried off the daughter of a gentleman of fortune to Scotland, to have married her. They soon saw through him, and his scheme was frustrated. There he passed for a knight of the order of the Eagle of Prussia, his Prussian majesty, he said, having honoured him with that ancient title for his gallant behaviour in several actions as a volunteer in that monarch's service. That was his travelling title there. In 1760 he passed at Beverley, in Yorkshire, for Admiral to his Prussian majesty, and pretended a Commission to purchase shipping for that monarch; but Lord Rockingham suspecting the imposter, obliged him to decamp. At York he succeeded better, and having by some fraud or other, raised money to equip himself, he paid his addresses to a young woman of fortune, and married her. What became of this unfortunate lady is not publicly known.

Mr Woodsall, in his list of the Baronets of Great Britain for this year, takes notice of him, with a very pompous coat of arms, the arms of England, which he has had the assurance to take upon him. While at Worcester, he visited one Mrs G-----, of Staffordshire, who was in Worcester castle for debt, and who is since dead. He got 300l. from her, under pretence of marrying and releasing her from confinement; but no sooner had he got the money, than he left her to starve, and seduced the daughter of a very honest and reputable tradesman, brought her up town, and when he was tired of her, turned her off.

Her dernier resort was to walk the streets, and in that situation is now in the most deplorable state, with a young infant. The poor unfortunate girl has a grandmother, who left, who left her five hundred pounds in her will, and when she had found what way of life the girl had taken to, cut her off with only fifty; the father took it to heart, as well as the grandmother, which terminated in the death of both of them. After this he paid his address to a young lady entitled to a fortune of 8000l. at the death of her mother. Finding he could not finger the money immediately, he addressed the mother, got them both with child, and by degrees the whole of their fortune. The mother broke her heart upon the occasion, and her daughter died raving mad in one of the madhouses in this metropolis. His next intrigue was at S—d--'s W---s where being attracted with the beauty and activity of the celebrated Miss Isabella W---n, Mr R—s—d's mistress; who owns the W---lls, he persuaded the girl to leave her keeper, and to live with him. In a few days she returned to R—s—d, with no other view but to abuse him. Mr R—s—d upbraided her with incontinency, and gave her to understand, that he had behaved with honour to her, by settling 300l. a year upon her for her life, which irritated Miss Isabella so far, as to make her burn the settlement before his face, which terminated in the ruin of the poor girl's family Mr R—s—d turned off her father, brothers, and sisters, from the W—ells, and would never suffer them to perform there any more. He then took an elegant house looking into Hyde park, and ordered a tradesman to

furnish it in every respect suitable to his pretended rank, which was accordingly done. The poor tradesman durst not presume to demand immediate payment of Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. but was some time after informed that he was an imposter; then he employed the gentlemen of the law to attack him for the debt. He immediately flew to the country with his dear Isabella, gave a bill of sale to the furniture broker, and caused the following to be inserted in the daily papers:—"Yesterday Sir Richard Perrot set out on a tour to Italy, by way of Paris"—This was done as a blind, to preserve him from the talons of the vultures of mankind; the scheme did not take, they found him out at Richmond, where he had served another tradesman the same trick, and found means to make off from both. When he had lived off poor Isabella as long as she had anything of value left, he deserted her. Her generous keeper redeemed all her valuables from a pawnbroker's shop, which consisted her plate and jewels to the amount of five hundred pounds, and very humanely allowed her a guinea a week, to keep her from starving.—He then proceeded for Montgomery, and came there the day after the last general election, sent for some of the lowest burgesses, and treated them to the amount of five pounds, and told them he was sorry he came a day too late, or he would have given Mr Clive a sweat. They laughed in their sleeves at his impudence and ignorance; they knew him too well, 'twas too near Shrewsbury. This is the man who was appointed to deliver the petition, or rather the address of the Bailiffs, Corporation, and Borough of Flint.

Lond. Ev. Post

Lloyds Evening Post 26th March 1770

Extracted from an alphabetical list of the Names, &c of those persons who have appeared In the London Gazette, to be discharged out of prison under the compulsive clause of the late Insolvent act:

Prisoners names. Places of abode, and occupation.

No. 52, Richard Perrot, late of St. Maryle Strand, Middlesex, Esq;

No. 61, John Sherwood, late of the Savoy Middlesex, Gentleman

Both the above in the Gazette of Sept. 12, 1761 compelled from the Kings Bench prison.

John Sherratt compelling Creditor.

The two latter are since made Justices of the Peace, and the former is now a Baronet.

The London Evening Post 26th April 1770

The following is authenticated to be a copy of a letter written by Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. to a Great Personage.

“I take the liberty, from the honour of having a *personal* acquaintance with your R----L H-----Ss once more to *address* you. I must confess my present application differs very much from my former one. I was then a *freeman*, charged with an embassy from a collective body of people distinguished by their loyalty and attachment, and whole representation would have done honour to the first private character in this kingdom. – But what a falling off is here!

“To acquaint your R---L H----Ss at once with my situation, I am under an arrest for *flying from my bail*. Difficulties of this nature every gentleman is subject to, whose *heart* happens to be more extensive than his *fortune*; I therefore shall not repine; but I must be more than man, was I not hurt at the many scandalous anecdotes told of me, from time to time, particularly at that collection of falsehood and scandal called “The Life and Adventures of Sir Richard Perrot, Bart.” where my imprudencies are stamped with villainies, and my youthful gallantries with artful seductions. But give me leave to assure your R----L H----Ss, that these were all the effects of envy; and I should pass through life, thus unemblazoned, had not your R-----L H-----Ss taken notice of me in the manner you did, and consequently held me up as a mark for political ill-nature to shoot at.

“The gracious reception I met with at the palace of your r---l f---r, and the particular indulgence I was honoured with by your R---L H---Ss, being so condescending as to enter into the most familiar conversation with me, embolden me to lay before you my present disagreeable situation (which, give me leave to add, is embittered by all the chicanery of the law, and insolence of power, on account of the loyal and constitutional part I took in procuring that address, which I had the honour of presenting you). And if I should be so happy, as once more to regain your confidence and protection, I should esteem the devoted services of the longest life too poor a recompence for such a favour.

I have the honour to be
with the most profoundest respect
your R----L H----S`s
most humble servant
R. PERROT.”

The Public Advertiser 14th Jun 1770

This Day is published
(Price Two Shillings)

The Life, Adventures, Intrigues, and Amours
of the celebrated Jeremy Twitcher.....

Where may be had

3. The Life, Adventures, and Amours of Sir Richard Perrot, The Flint Carrier.

Bingleys Journal 18th August 1770

On Sunday last a remarkable entertainment was given by Sir Richard Perrot In the King`s Bench Prison, in honour of the Prince of Wales`s birthday. There were present on this occasion the celebrated Mrs Quarrington, the Hon. Captain Rutter and lady; Mr Robarts, receiver of the rents for the Marshall, and lady; Mr and Mrs De Costa; Mr Stevens; Mr Thomson; Mr Winsly; Mr Scott and lady; Capt. Hurlham and lady; the two Kennedys, with their irons on, &c. A courtesan from the purliens of Covent Garden, was partnered with a Colonel of the ----- Rangers, commanded by Field Marshall Sir Richard Perrot, Bart. Commodore Trunion, and some others of the like fashion, joined by Sir Firebrand Racquet Ball, and his Deputy Capt. March, the Markers of the Fives Court, Richmond the Cryer, Sweepers, &c. composed a curious company of loyalists.

The following toasts were drank in Welch ale.

1. Mrs. Quarrington; three cheers.
2. The Prince of Wales.
3. The present Ministry.
4. The Huzzaers of Flint
5. The memorable delivery of the Flint petition.
6. Doubtful characters established.
7. Health and perseverance to our fellow-prisoners; and may they never pay their debtyts.
8. Magna Carta and d-----n to our Plaintiffs

Bingleys Journal 25th August 1770

It is with the greatest pleasure we can assure the public, that the following gentlemen did not dine with Sir Richard Perrot in the King`s Bench, on the Prince of Wales`s birth-day, Mess. Scot, Da Costa, Hurlham, Thomson, Steven, Winsley, Richmond.

The Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser 9th October 1770

To be SOLD by AUCTION
At Mr. FOZARDS, the Horse and Groom livery stables
in Piccadilly, on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock.
Two remarkable fine CHESTNUT GELDINGS
formerly the property of Sir Richard Perrot
both got by young cade, cut of two brood mares belonging
to the Duke of Bolton; they are now six years old, with full
tails and manes, go steady in harness, and march very well,
and supposed to be the best pair of horses in England, and
are hearty, warranted sound: likewise a chariot upon a new-
construction, which cost with harness 140 guineas, it is little
the worse for use: the horses and carriages will be sold in
two separate lots. To be viewed at the time of sale .

The London Gazette 1772

Issues; Number 11242 Tuesday April 21st to April 25th
Number 11244 Tuesday April 28th to May 2nd
Number 11246 Tuesday May 5th to May 9th

The following persons being prisoners for Debt, in the respective Prisons, or Goals, hereafter mentioned, do hereby give Notice, That they intend to take the Benefit of an Act of Parliament, passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty King George the Third, instituted, *An Act for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, and for indemnifying the Marshal of the King's Bench Prison from Prosecutions at Law for certain Escapes from the said Prison*, at the next General or Quarter Session of the Peace to be held in and for the County, Riding, Division, City, Town, Liberty, or Place, or any Adjournment thereof, which shall happen next after THIRTY days from the FIRST Publication of the under-mentioned Names, viz.

Issue 11242;
Prisoners in the KING'S BENCH Prison,
In the County of Surrey

First Notice

Page 6

Sir Richard Perrot, formerly of Park Street, Late of Gloucester View, both in the Parish of St. George Hanover-square in the County of Middlesex, Baronet.

Issue 11244;

Prisoners in the KING`S BENCH Prison,
In the County of Surrey

Second Notice

Page 5

Sir Richard Perrot, formerly of Park Street, Late of Gloucester View, both in the Parish of St. George Hanover-square in the County of Middlesex, Baronet.

Issue 11246;

Prisoners in the KING`S BENCH Prison,
In the County of Surrey

Third Notice

Page 5

Sir Richard Perrot, formerly of Park Street, Late of Gloucester View, both in the Parish of St. George Hanover-square in the County of Middlesex, Baronet.

St James Chronicle and British Evening Post 9th February 1773

L O N D O N

It is thought that Mr Sheriff Lewis`s Motive for accepting the Honour of Knighthood was to emulate the Ambition, as well as the Merit of Sir Richard Perrot; and as the latter was knighted for bringing up a Welch`s Address, though not a native of Principality, Sir Watkins Lewes thought he has a Right to the same honour for carrying the English Address, being an ancient Briten, *Sprung from Cadwallader and Arthur, Kings full famous in romantic tale.*

St James Chronicle and British Evening Post 6th October 1774

On Wednesday last Sir Richard Perrot, Bart., was introduced at the Levee To the King, by Lord Willoughby de Broke, and had the Honour to kiss his Majesty`s Hand.

Morning Post and Daily Advertiser

6th October 1775

We hear that Sir Richard Perrot, finding it no longer possible to deceive the public, has at last declared his *real* title, and that the same year, in which he was created *Lord High Admiral of Prussia*, he was dubbed KNIGHT OF THE POLAR STAR! Sir Richard would have declared himself long before this period, but was ashamed to appear without the insignia of order; upon which he was constrained to raise a few pounds towards the expenses of his famous patriotic excursion into Flintshire, a disbursement which still remains unpaid by government.

**General Advertiser and Morning Intelligencer
August 15 1778**

We are happy to have it in our power to give a particular account of the affair which happened at the Mechlenbourg Coffee-House. On Wednesday Evening.

A foreign gentleman went into the above coffee-house and ordered his dinner: there was but one person in the large room up one pair of stairs, sitting in the corner at the further end; when he entered he took off his hat, by way of a salute, and sat down at the same end of the room in the other corner next the window; after he had dined, as he was reading the paper, a pint stone mug grazes his cheek, and dashed to pieces against the wainscot. Amazed at being complimented in so extraordinary a manner by a person with whom he had never exchanged either a word, look or gesticulation, he started up and demanded the cause: when he found the gentleman on his legs, presenting a pistol to his head; he put by his arm, and summoned the waiters, who as hastily left the room as they came into it. Constables were now sent for, and the foreigner stepped into a house in Jermyn-street, where he knew Sir Richard Perrot dined, (who is remarkable for his civility and his attention to foreigners) and told him a tale, and begged advice of Sir Richard, who recommended him to return, and to take the offender to any neighbouring Justice of the Peace; if he was insane, it was absolutely necessary that, for the safety of the public, he should be disarmed- if he was not mad, he certainly deserved a severe reprimand; and offered as he was a stranger and etiquette of this country, to go with him. On their attempting to go up the stairs at the Mechlenbourg, the mistress of the house begged Sir Richard not to go up as he would certainly be shot. The Baronet having no other defence than a cane, the two

constables (one of them armed with a pistol) attempted to enter the nearest door to the gentleman at them, who, on presenting a brace of pistols at them , they immediately retreated and shut the door; (there are two doors to the room). Sir Richard seeing the constables rather cautious entered the room at the farthest door, when he had the brace of pistols presented at him, and was desired to leave the room, or they would be discharged at him. Sir Richard walked coolly down to him, begging him to put his pistols up, as no hurt should be done to him in that café. He let Sir Richard come within five or six feet before he snapped his right hand pistol at him, which missed fire; the Baronet seized him and disarmed of on pistol. The constables assisted Sir Richard after he had seized the other, to wrench it from him; it was attempted to be discharged in the struggle, which Sir Richard resented by a stroke on the knuckles with the other pistol, which completed the business. Being secured, he was carried away before Justice Elliot, when he refused to give any account of himself, but lamented that he did not lodge the balls in Sir Richards Perrot`s breast, for daring to attack him unarmed. Sir Richard assured him that he could not be better armed, for had his pistol been discharged that he intended to fire first, Sir Richard was sure of lodging the ferril of his cane in his brains; and that a cane in his hand never missed fire. On searching him at the Justice there was found on him three spare balls, a flask of powder and a sporting knife; in his purse seventeen guineas of gold and a twenty pound Bank note. He was committed till Saturday next for further examination. It since turns out that the above gentlemen`s name is Arthur Gregory, a Captain on half pay in the 74th, and it is rather believed (as the country people express it) ; has run on the wrong side his senses; if so, it is at least happy for the public that he is deprived, as the provision he had in his pockets indicated, his intentions to commit mischief. Each pistol was charged with a single ball.

Captain Gregory has a gentleman-like appearance, is about 40 and 50 years of age , and is about five feet high.

Morning Herald and Daily Advertiser **19th March 1782**

Last week was married, at Haddington, Sir Richard Perrot, Bart, to Margaret Jemima Fordyce, eldest daughter of William Fordyce, Esq. Groom of his Majesty`s most honourable Privy Chamber.

Jane Juliana Darnley Perrott

(1795-1863) was the daughter of **Sir Richard Perrott** (1716-1796) and **Margaret Jemima Fordyce** (1760-1832). She is pictured here with her husband **Garrett Brinsley Sheridan** (1792-1855). The couple are rumoured to have eloped, perhaps because of the family disapproving of the marriage – Garrett was an actor, but later became a solicitor. The couple had four children – Henry, Margaret, Charlotte and John – between 1820 and 1831.



The Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier
29th December 1831

The Pension List

There has just been printed, by order of the House of Commons “An account of all pensions on the Civil List of England and Ireland, and on the hereditary revenue of Scotland on the 22nd of November, 1830.....”

Dame Margaret Jemima Perrott, 48l. 15s.

The Morning Post 2nd June 1832

DIED

A few days ago, the Lady Margaret Jemima Perrott, whose strenuous exertions for her young offspring must still be in the recollection of the public. A more exemplary woman never existed. By her death two orphans are left totally destitute, the little pension she received for Government having died with her.